



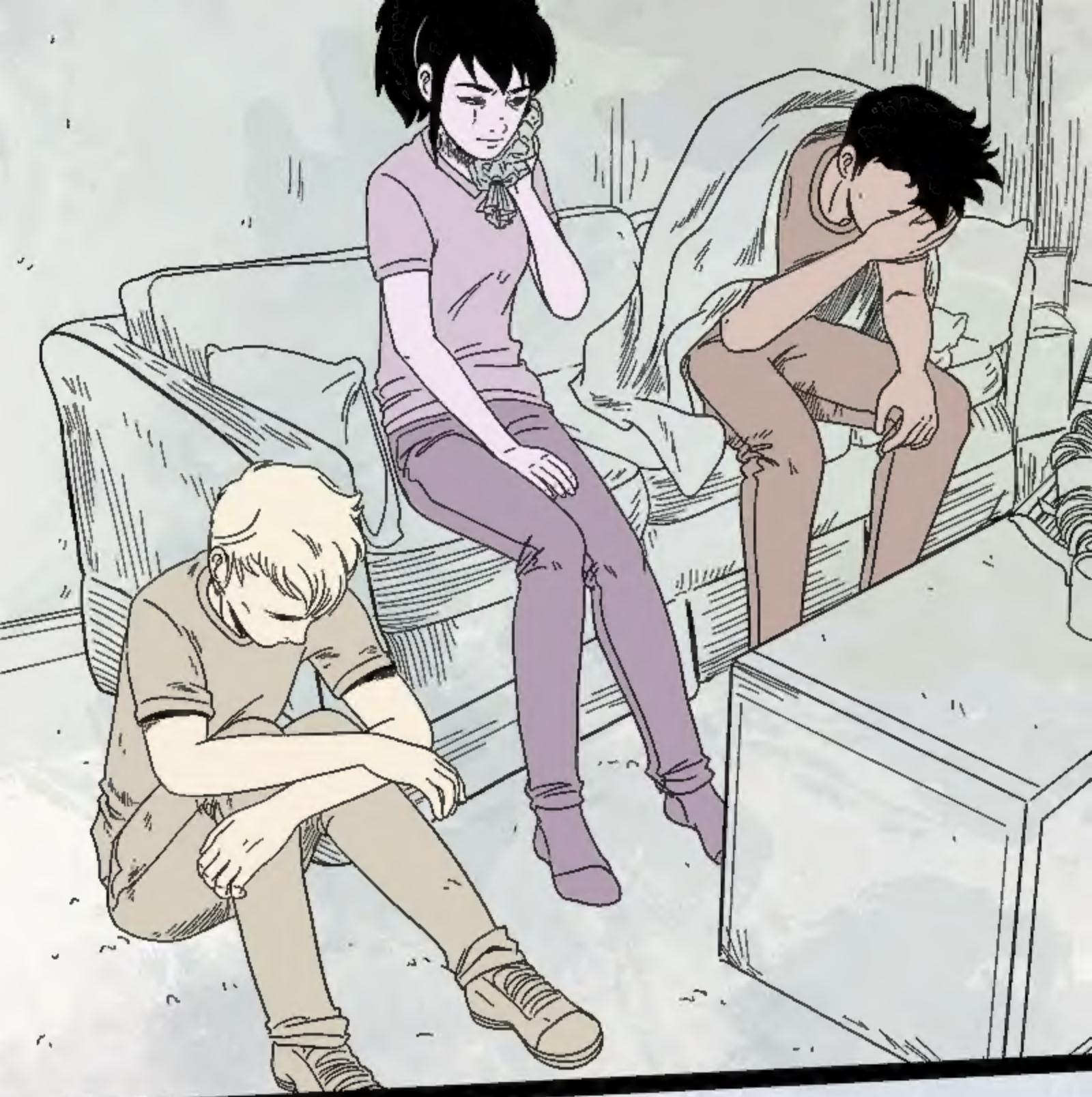
12

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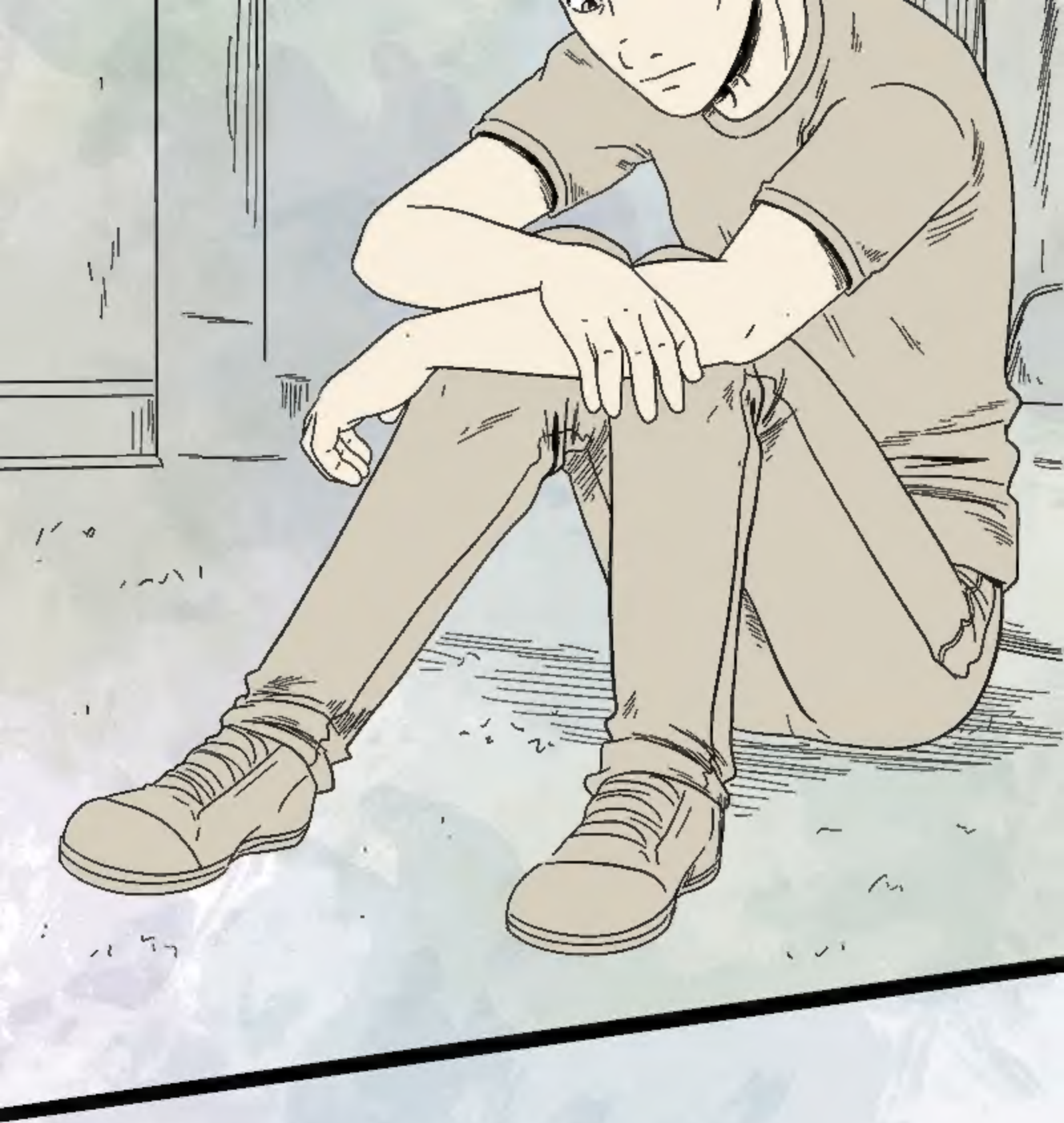








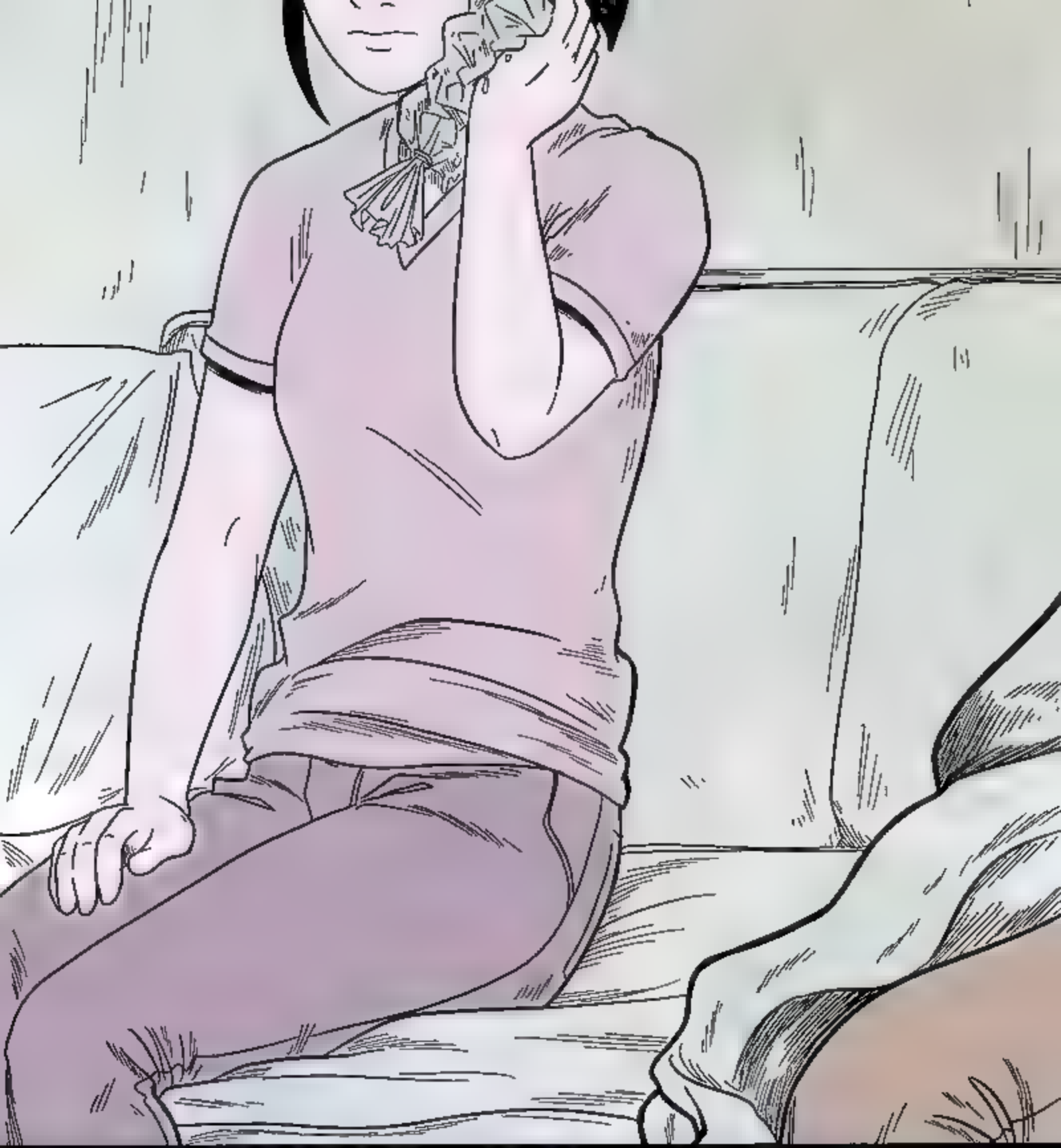






ONCE WE WERE HOME,
FELIX TOLD US ABOUT
EVERYTHING HE'D BEEN
SEEING WHEN WE WEREN'T
AROUND.



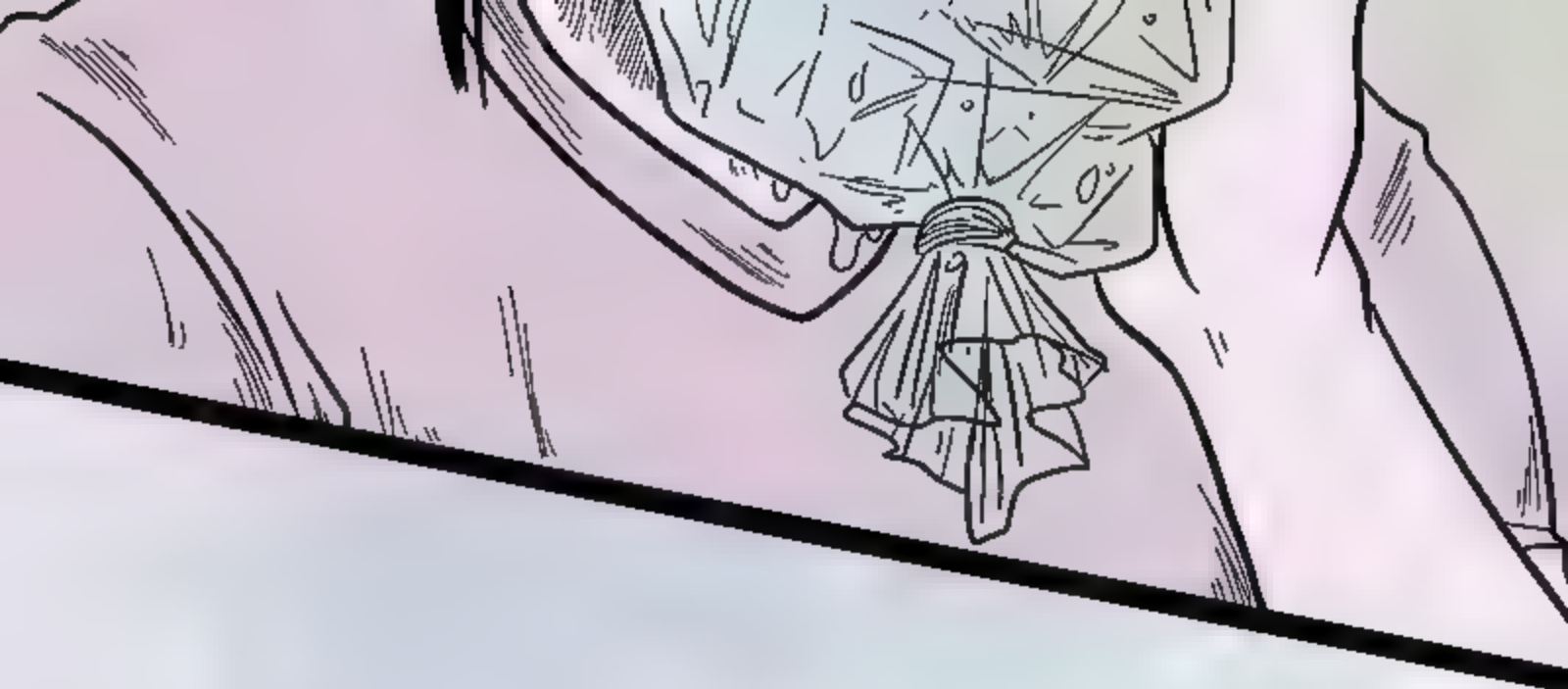


IT WAS...AN AWKWARD

IT WASN'T AN EASY
CONVERSATION, TO
SAY THE LEAST.

AND NOT JUST BECAUSE
I WAS HAVING TROUBLE
TALKING.





WE KNEW THE ENTITY HAD
DONE THIS TO HIM, BUT WE
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT '*THIS*' WAS.

AND WE WEREN'T SURE WE
COULD FIX IT.

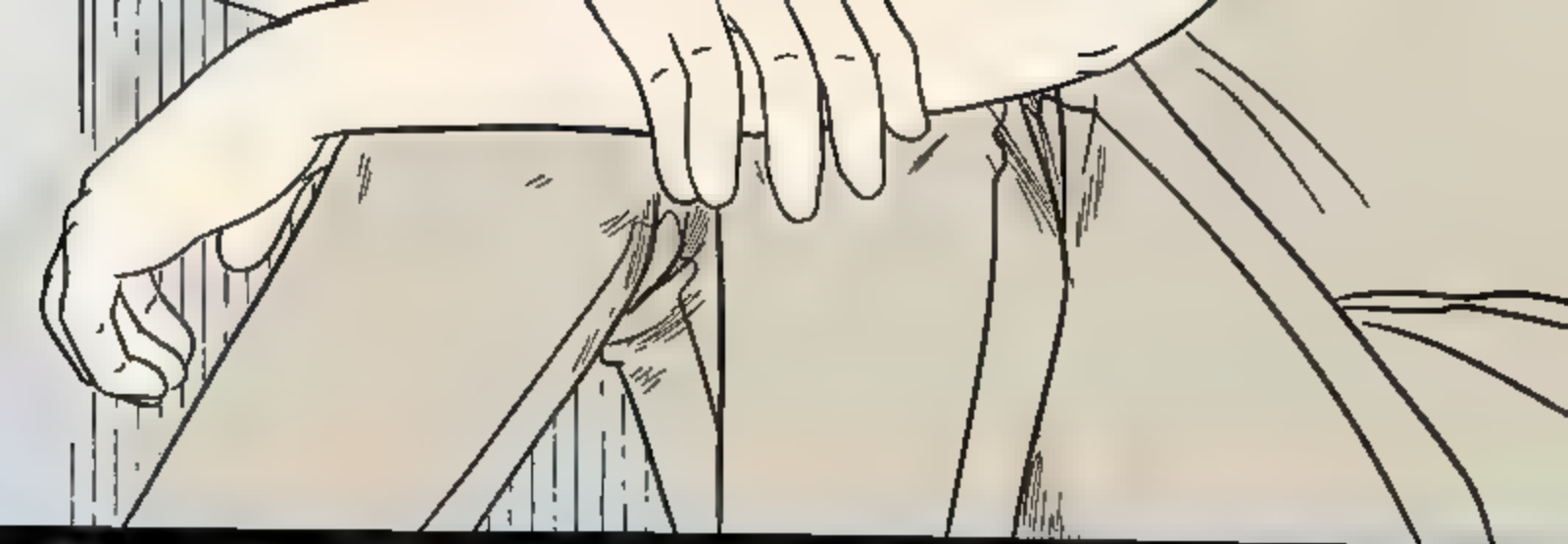
I WASN'T AFRAID OF HIM.

I'D DEALT WITH TOO
MUCH ALREADY. PART OF
ME WAS JUST NUMB AT
THIS POINT. LIKE IT
BARELY MATTERED.

FELIX, YOU...WANT
SOMETHING TO
EAT, DUDE?

FRANKIE?



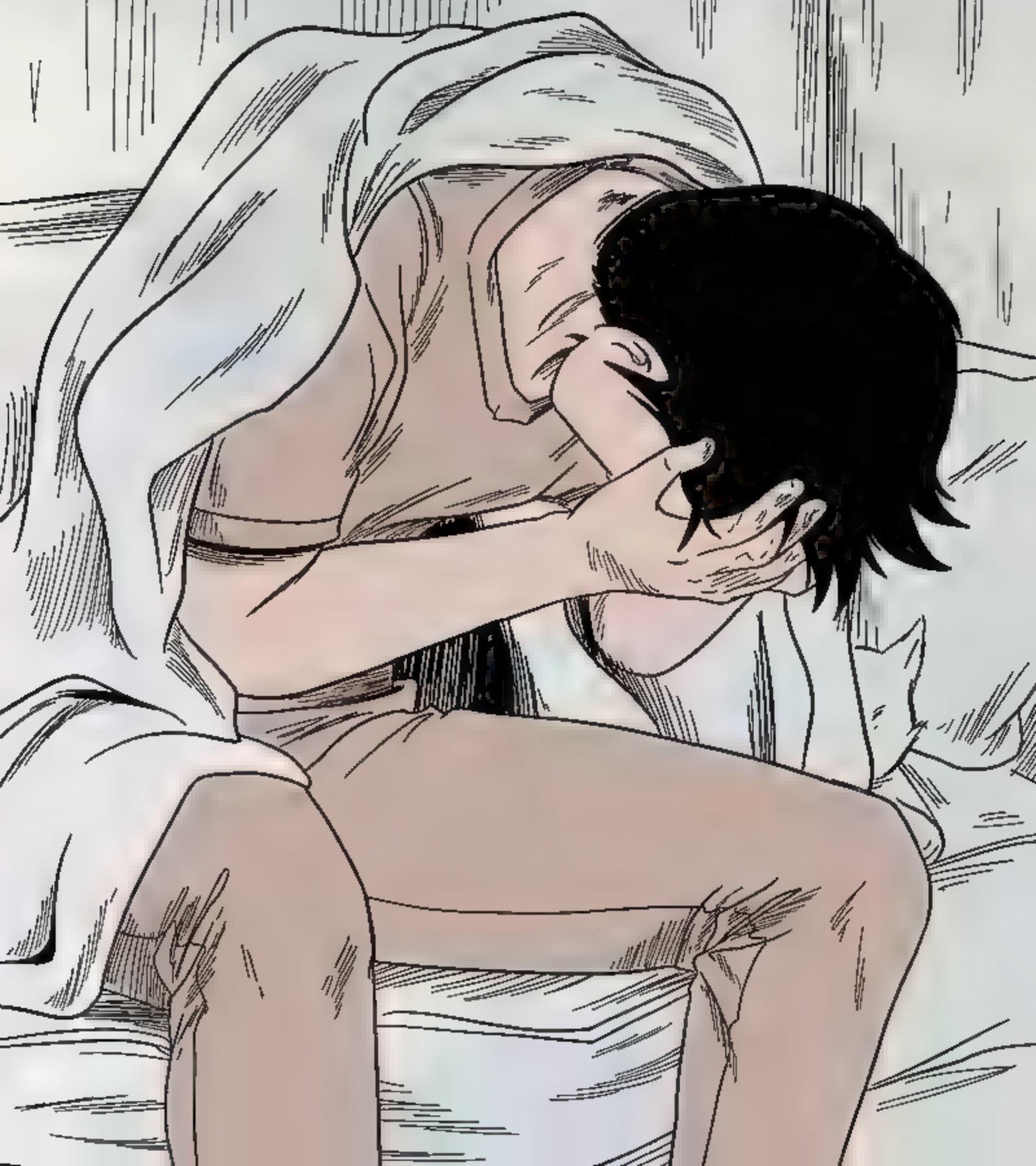


NO.

I'M-

I'M JUST
SO SORRY. I
LET YOU GUYS
DOWN!

DOWN.

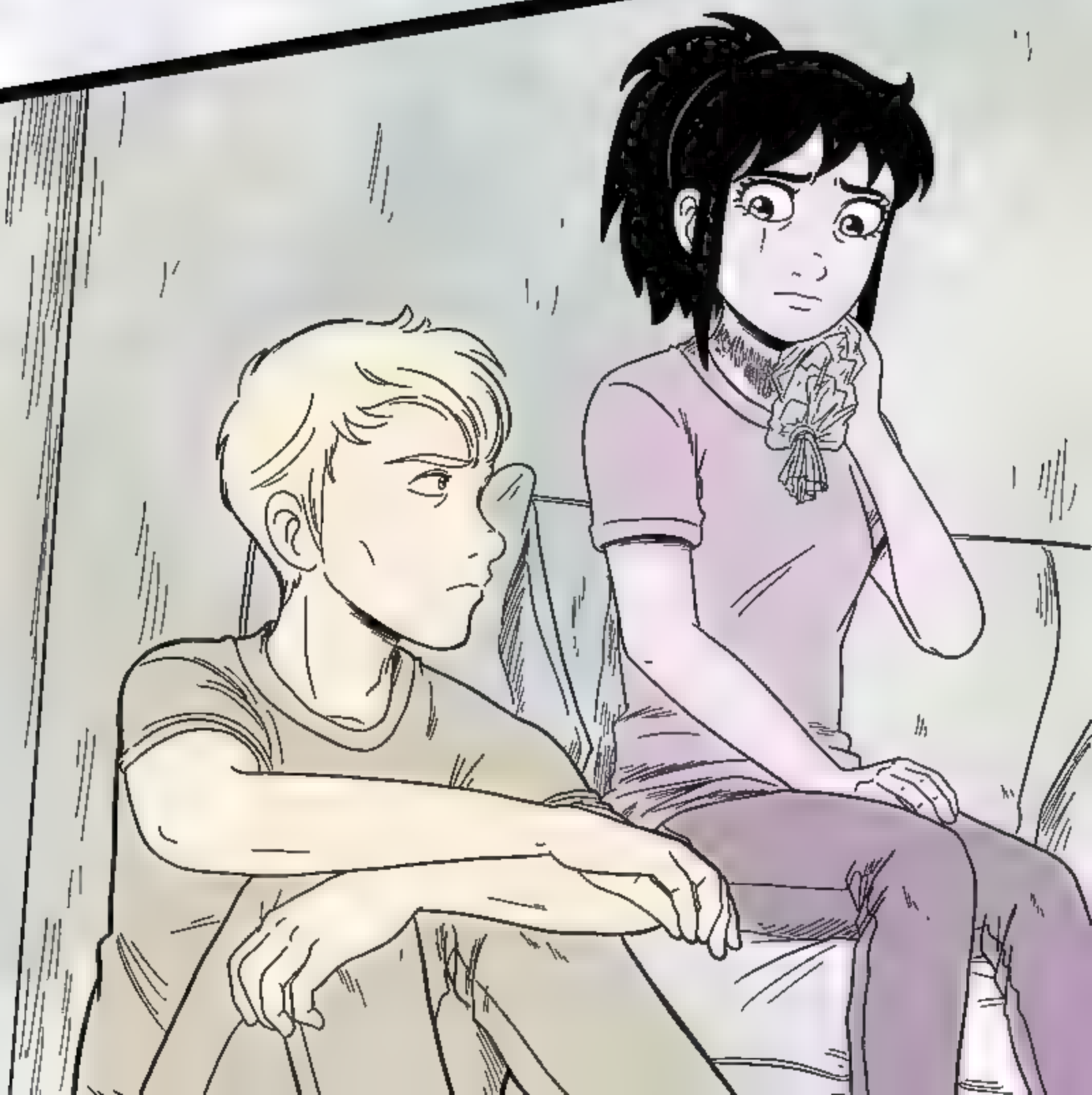


A comic book panel featuring two speech bubbles. The top bubble is larger and contains the text "I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT...". The bottom bubble is smaller and contains the text "YOU KNOW...". The background is a light blue gradient. At the very top, there are some horizontal lines and a small portion of a character's head, suggesting a character is speaking.

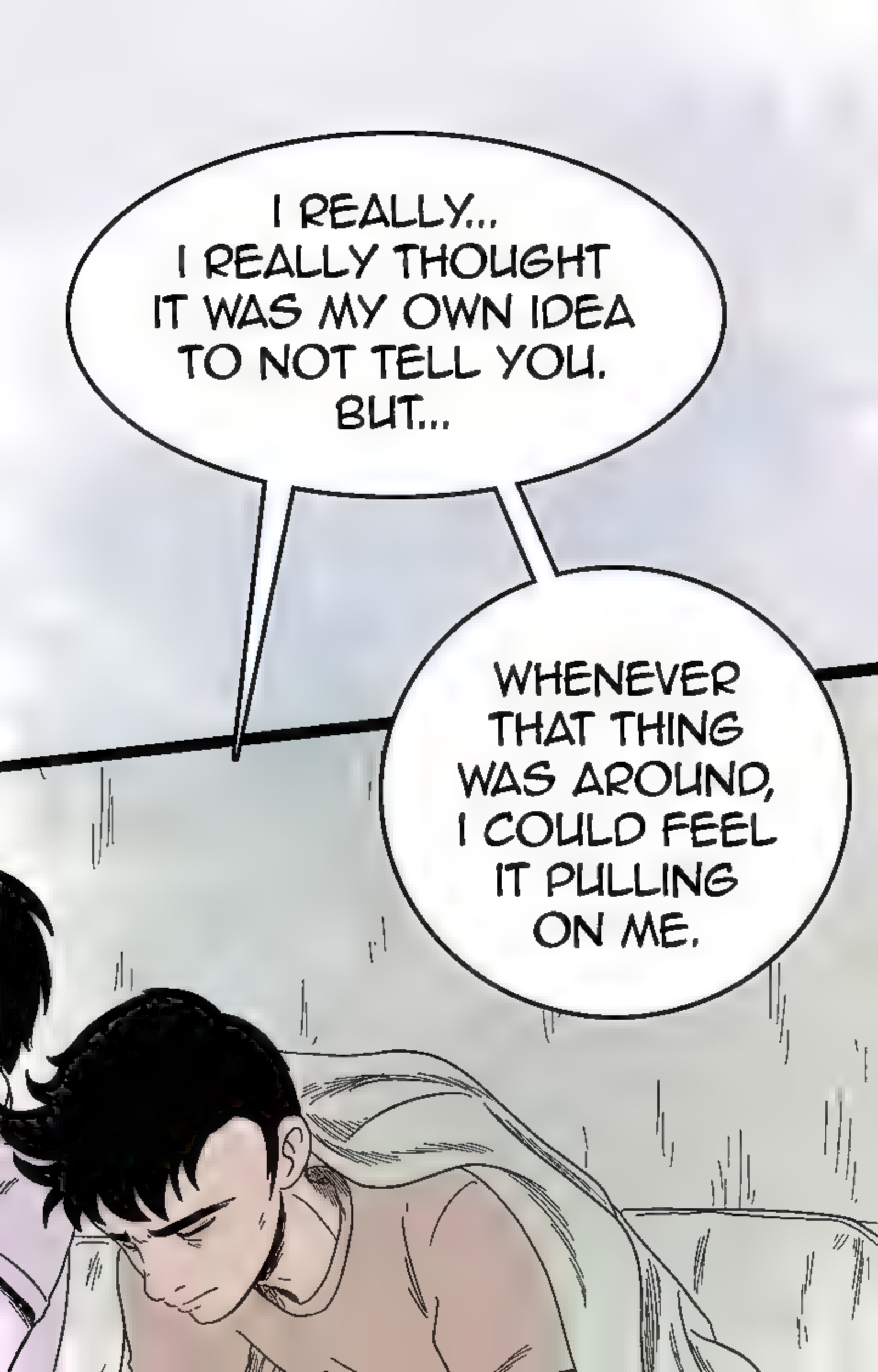
I SHOULD'VE
TOLD YOU FROM
THE BEGINNING,
BUT...

YOU KNOW...

YOU'VE BOTH
BEEN THROUGH
SO MUCH WORSE
THAN ME, BY
YOURSELVES.

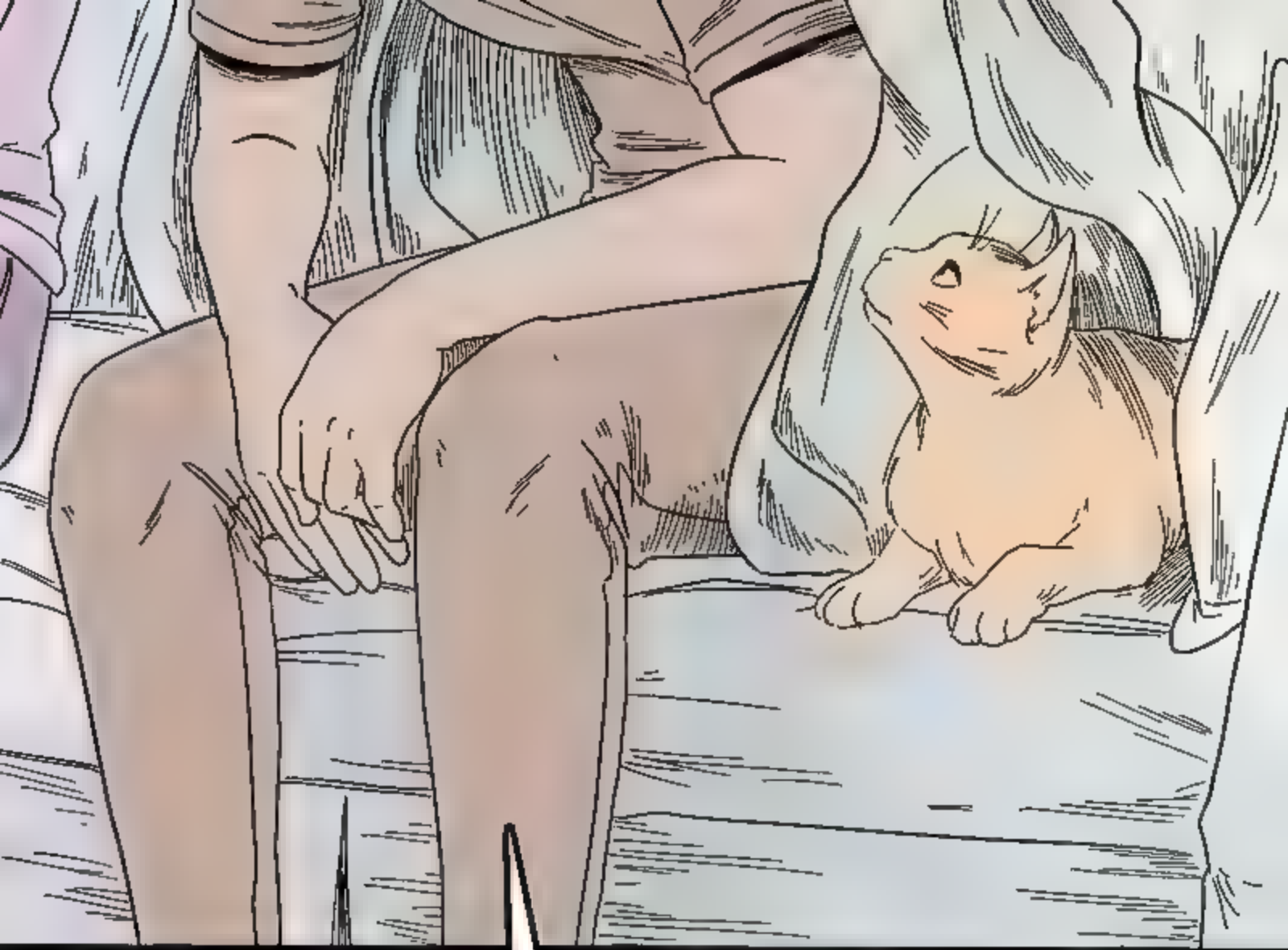






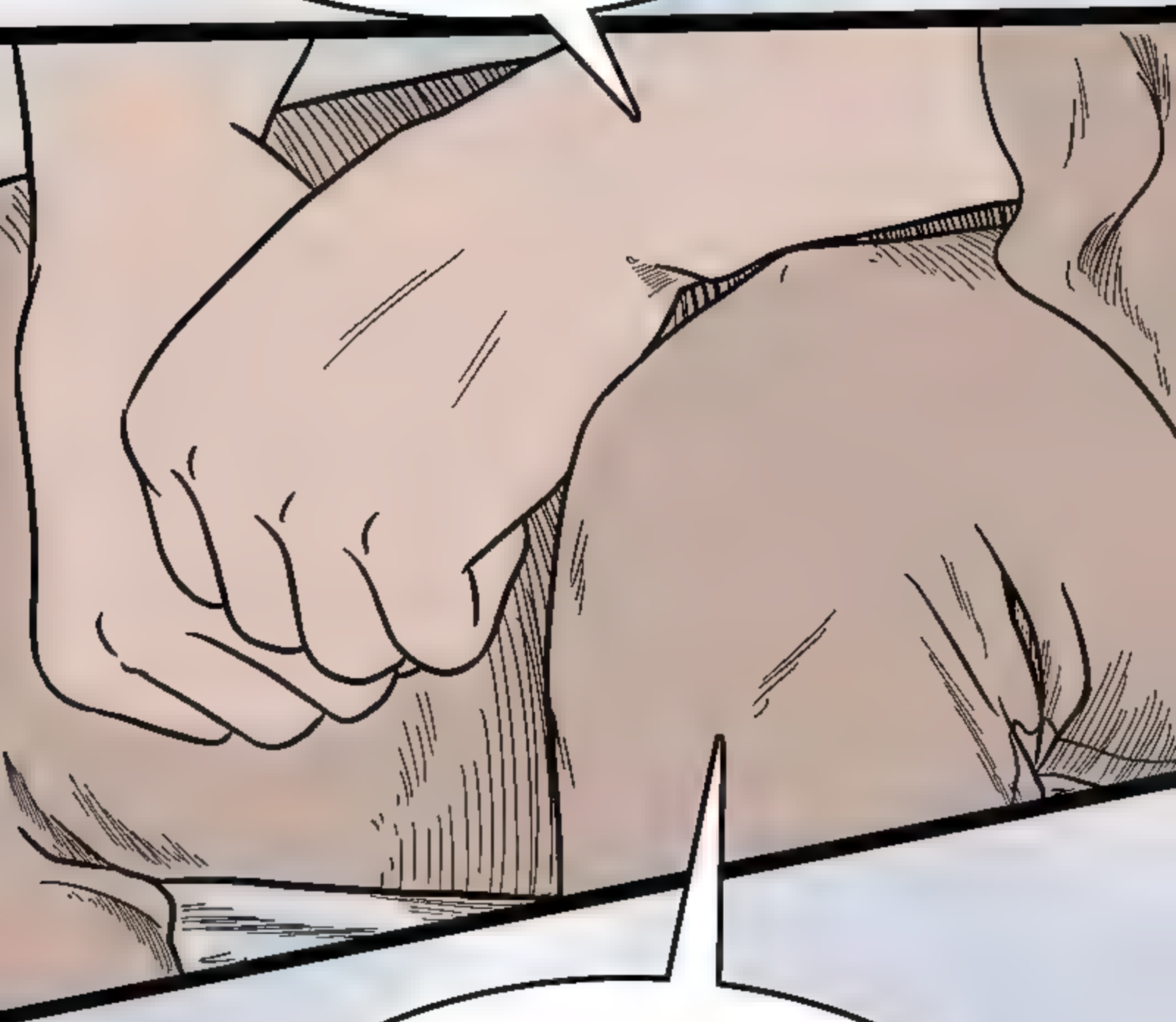
I REALLY...
I REALLY THOUGHT
IT WAS MY OWN IDEA
TO NOT TELL YOU.
BUT...

WHENEVER
THAT THING
WAS AROUND,
I COULD FEEL
IT PULLING
ON ME.



I HEARD VOICES
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND,
AND THE IDEA THAT YOU
WOULD BE AFRAID OF
ME IF I TOLD YOU
ABOUT IT.

SOMETHING JUST
KEPT TELLING ME
NOT TO SAY
ANYTHING.



AND WHEN I
TRIED TO ANYWAY,
IT TOOK CONTROL.

I DON'T-

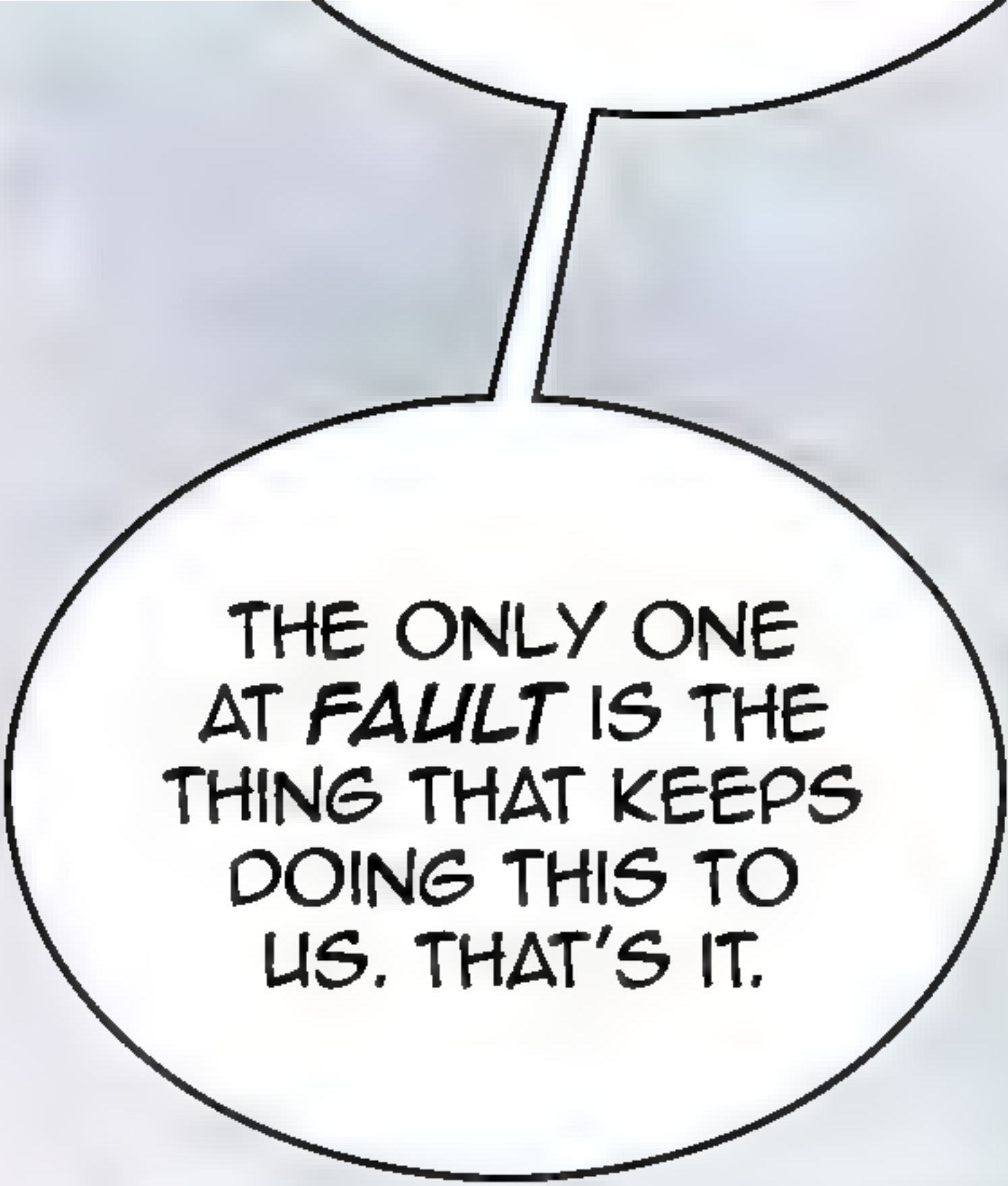
I DON'T KNOW HOW
TO MAKE IT UP TO
YOU GUYS. THIS IS
ALL MY FAUL-

YOU KNOW
WHAT?

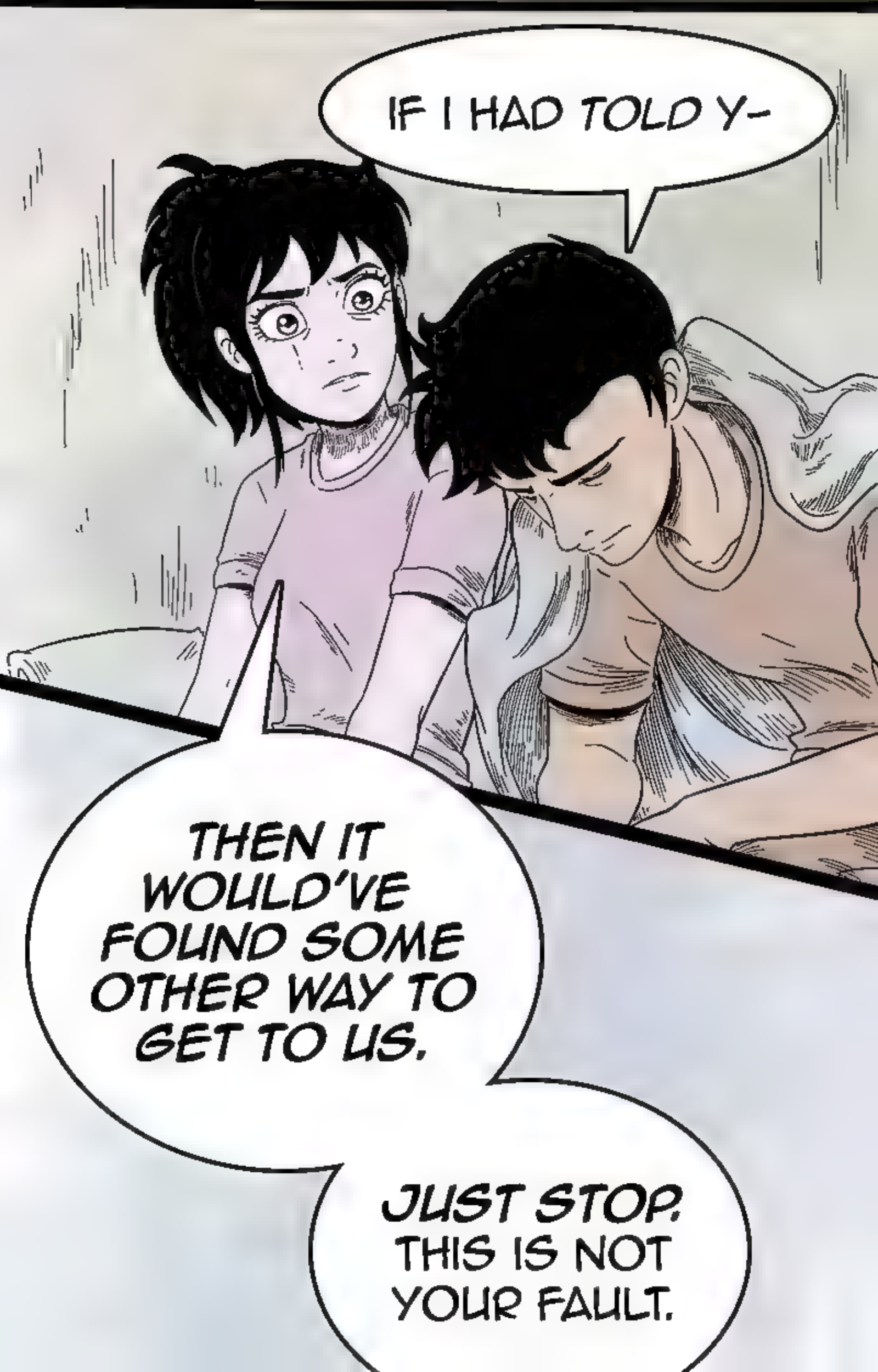
THAT'S ENOUGH.



I'M PUTTING
A MORATORIUM
ON "IT'S ALL MY
FAULT." BECAUSE
THAT SEEMS TO BE
THE FAMILY MOTTO
LATELY.



THE ONLY ONE
AT *FAULT* IS THE
THING THAT KEEPS
DOING THIS TO
US. THAT'S IT.



IF I HAD TOLD Y-

**THEN IT
WOULD'VE
FOUND SOME
OTHER WAY TO
GET TO US.**

**JUST STOP.
THIS IS NOT
YOUR FAULT.**

I STILL
TRUST YOU,
FELIX.



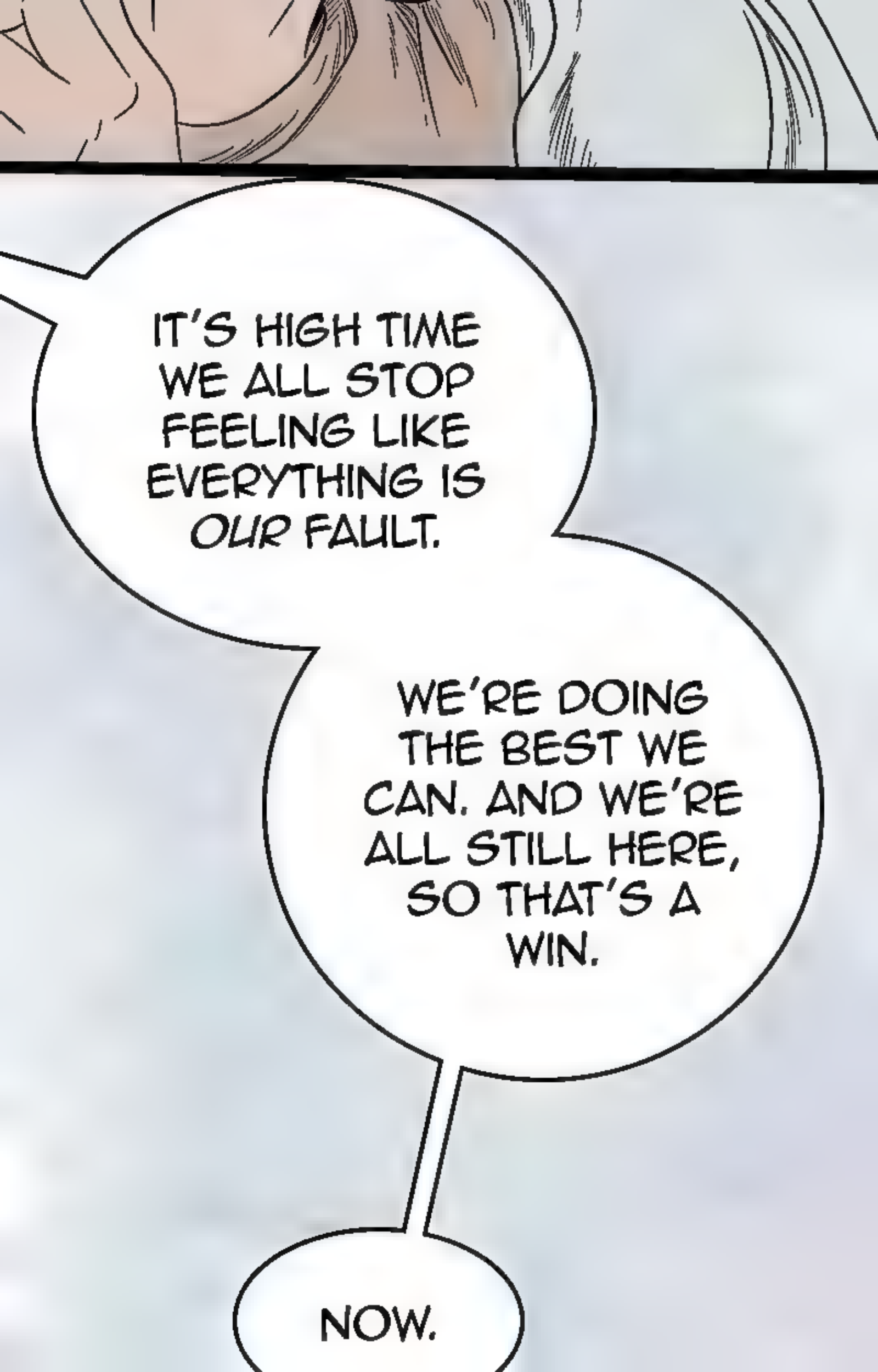


I'M PUTTING
IT BEHIND ME.

IF FOR NO
REASON OTHER
THAN I'M PRETTY
SURE THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT THE
ENTITY *DOESN'T*
WANT ME TO DO.

IF I CAN MOVE
ON FROM THIS,
THEN SO CAN
YOU.



A comic book panel featuring two characters at the top. The character on the left has brown skin and is wearing a brown garment. The character on the right has light skin and is wearing a white garment. Below them are two speech bubbles. The first speech bubble is large and contains the text 'IT'S HIGH TIME WE ALL STOP FEELING LIKE EVERYTHING IS OUR FAULT.' The second speech bubble is also large and contains the text 'WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN. AND WE'RE ALL STILL HERE, SO THAT'S A WIN.' A small, third speech bubble at the bottom contains the text 'NOW.'

IT'S HIGH TIME
WE ALL STOP
FEELING LIKE
EVERYTHING IS
OUR FAULT.

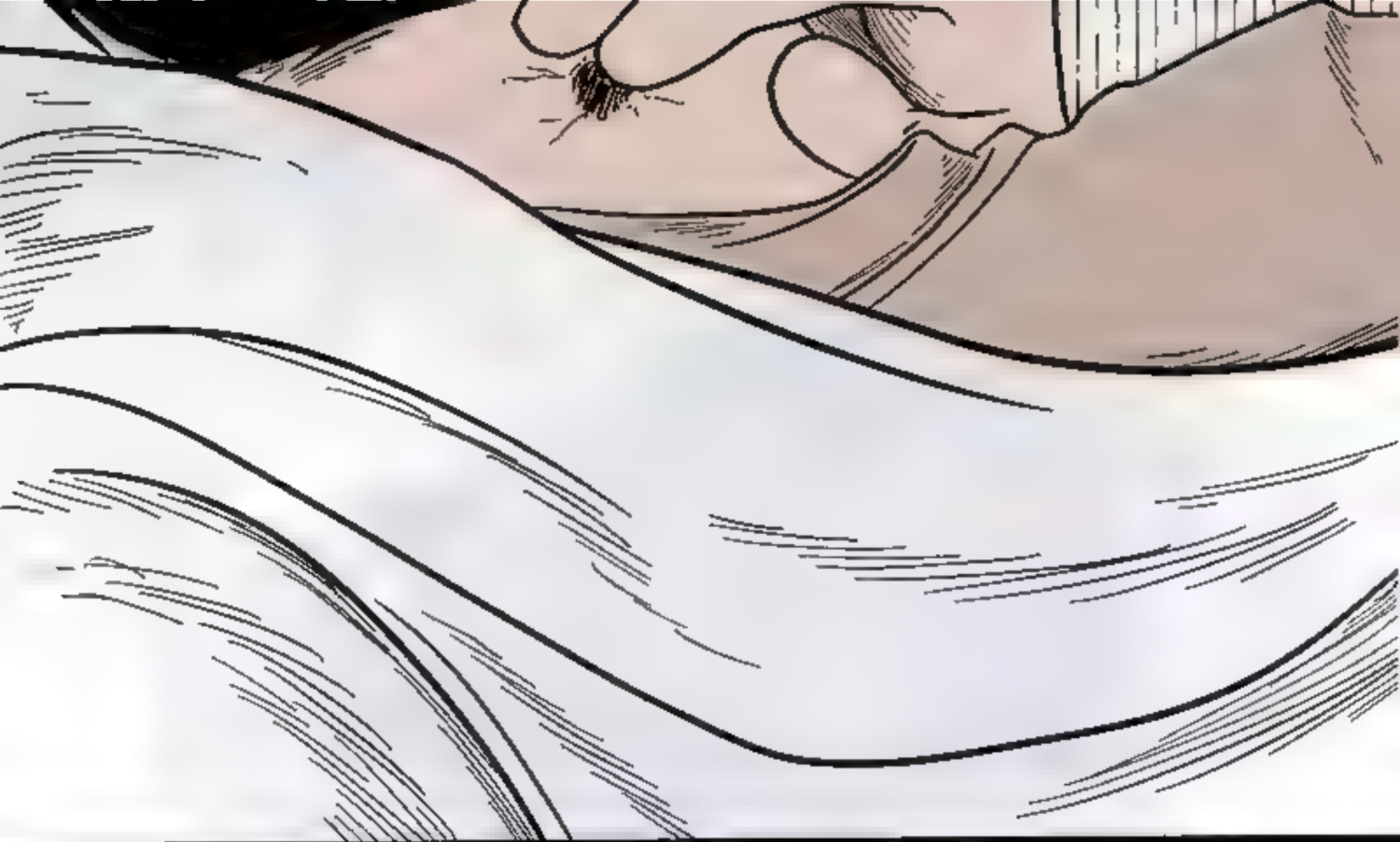
WE'RE DOING
THE BEST WE
CAN. AND WE'RE
ALL STILL HERE,
SO THAT'S A
WIN.

NOW.

HOW DID YOU
GET THAT MARK
ON YOUR NECK?

A hand is shown touching a dark, irregular mark on a person's neck. The background consists of vertical hatching lines.

WHAT...
THIS?
DUNNO.
HAD IT FOR
A WHILE
NOW.

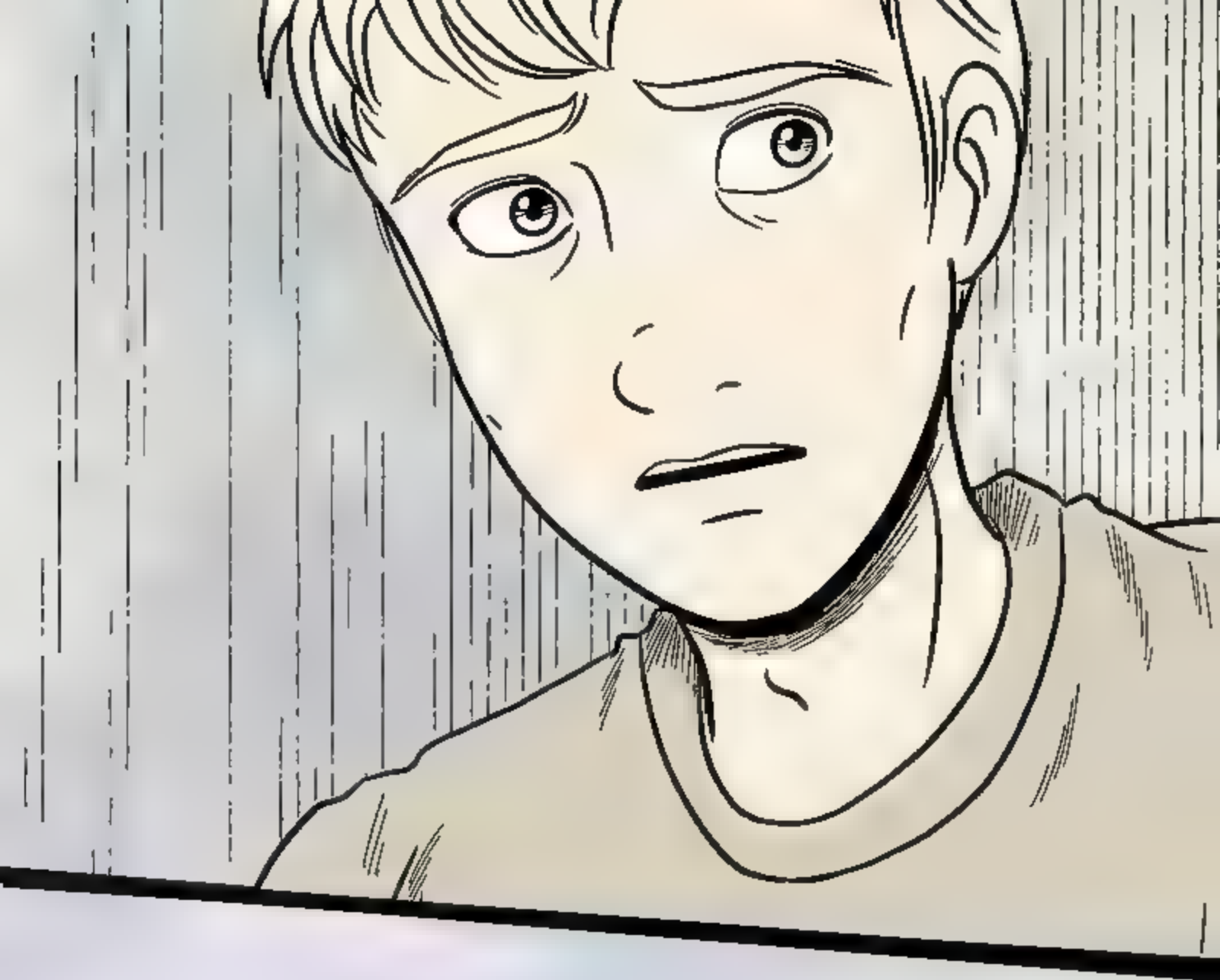


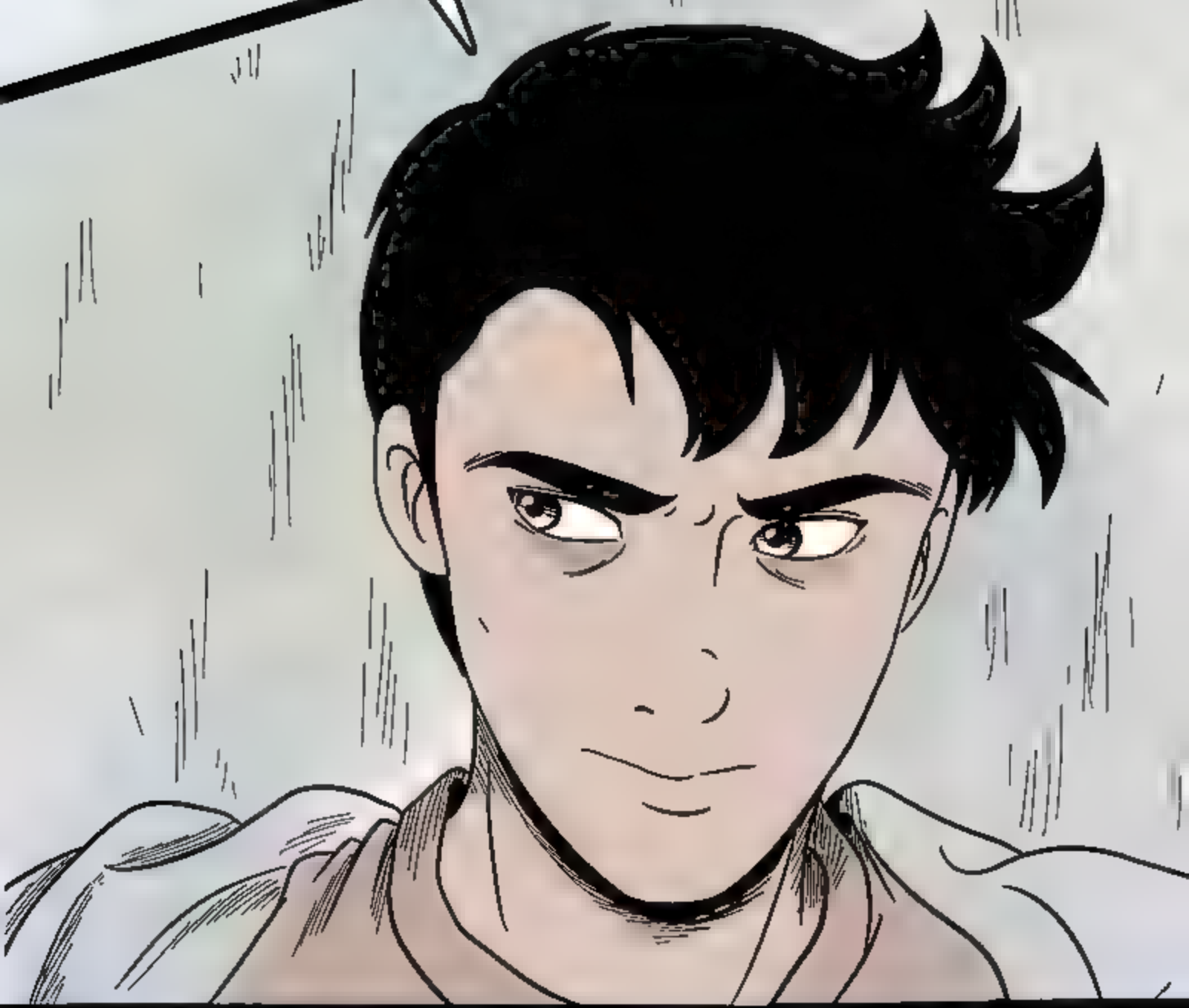
SINCE THE
BRIDGE, I
THINK.

GOT IT IN
A FIGHT WITH
THAT ROBOT
SCISSOR THING.

NUMBER 5?
CAN YOU
REMEMBER
HOW IT HURT
YOU?







I DON'T REALLY
REMEMBER MUCH
FROM FIGHTING
THAT THING.

BUT I DO
REMEMBER
COMING HOME.

I...KNOCKED
ON FRANKIE'S
DOOR, BRIEFLY...

SHE WOULDN'T
LET ME IN.



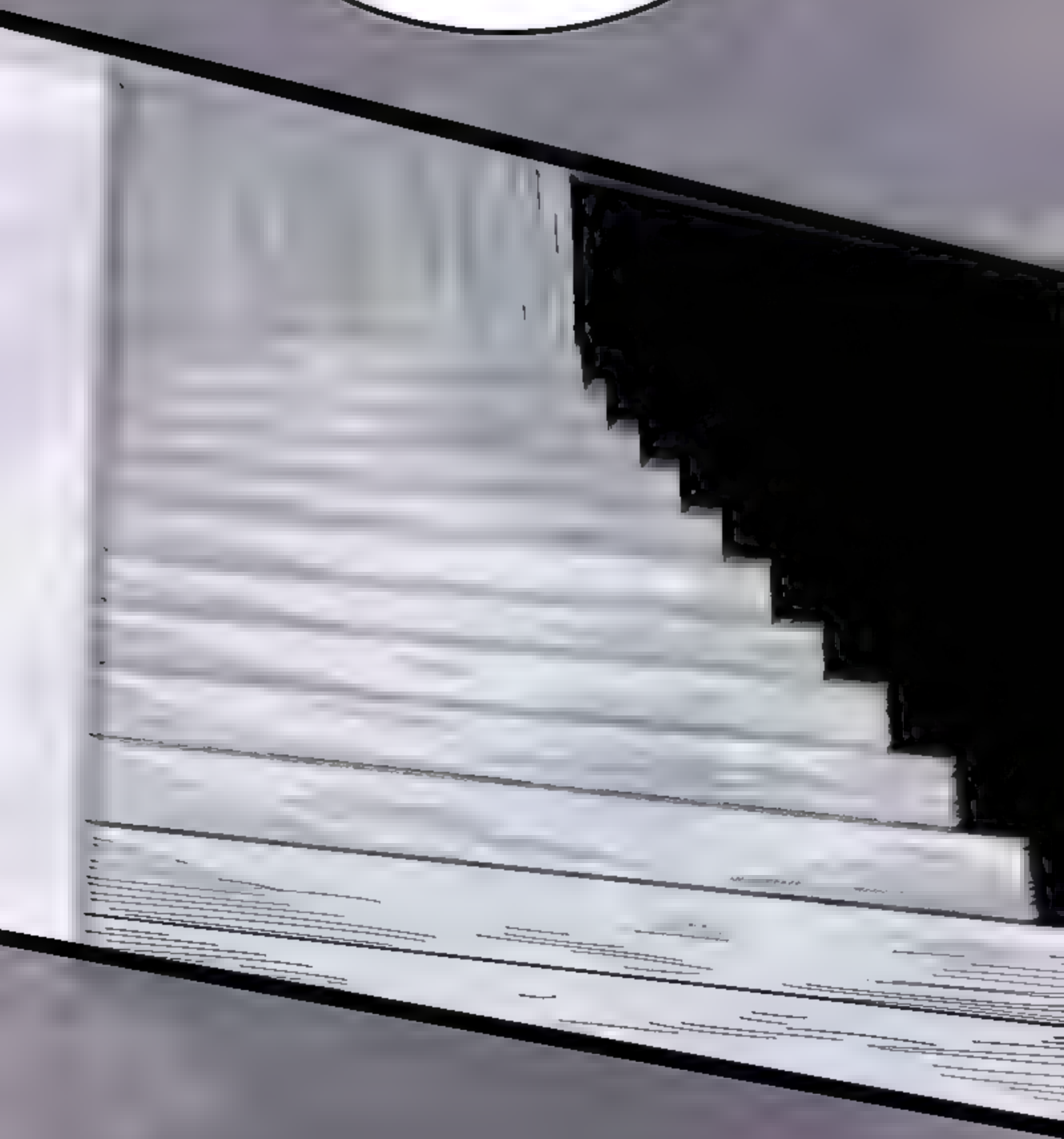
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COURSE I DIDN'T.
YOU WERE ACTING
SO BIZARRE.

THEN I...

I WENT DOWN
INTO THE
BASEMENT.





I REMEMBER...

I JUST SORT
OF WALKED
AROUND IN THERE
FOR A BIT.





I MUST'VE
DAMAGED THE
FLOOR AT SOME
POINT, AND THAT
BLACK STUFF
CRAWLED UP
INTO THE PIPES.

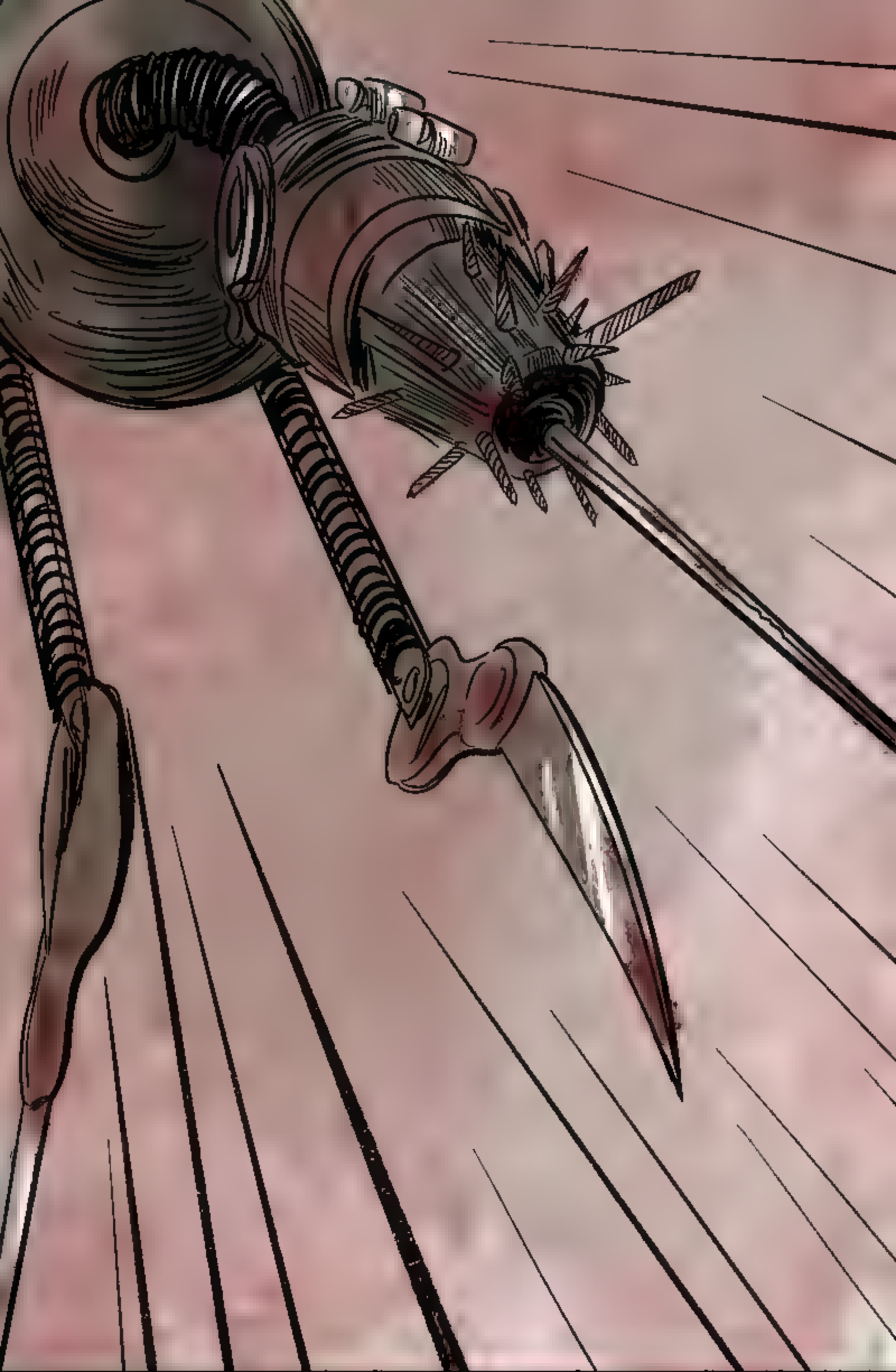
THAT'S ALL,
REALLY.

FELIX, *TRY*.
TRY HARD TO
REMEMBER.

I CAN'T-

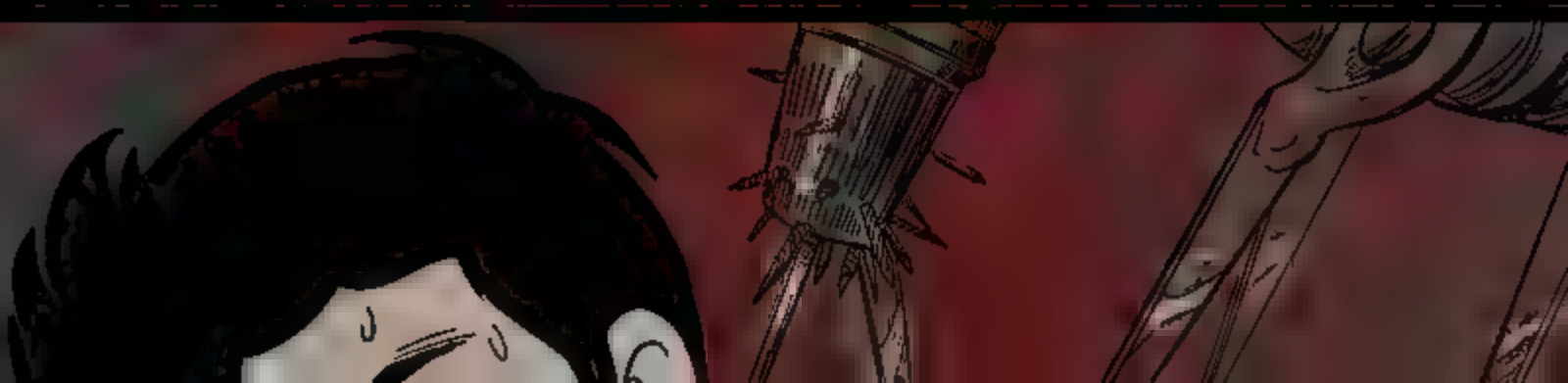


OH
GOD...



STABB









**IT STABBED
ME!**



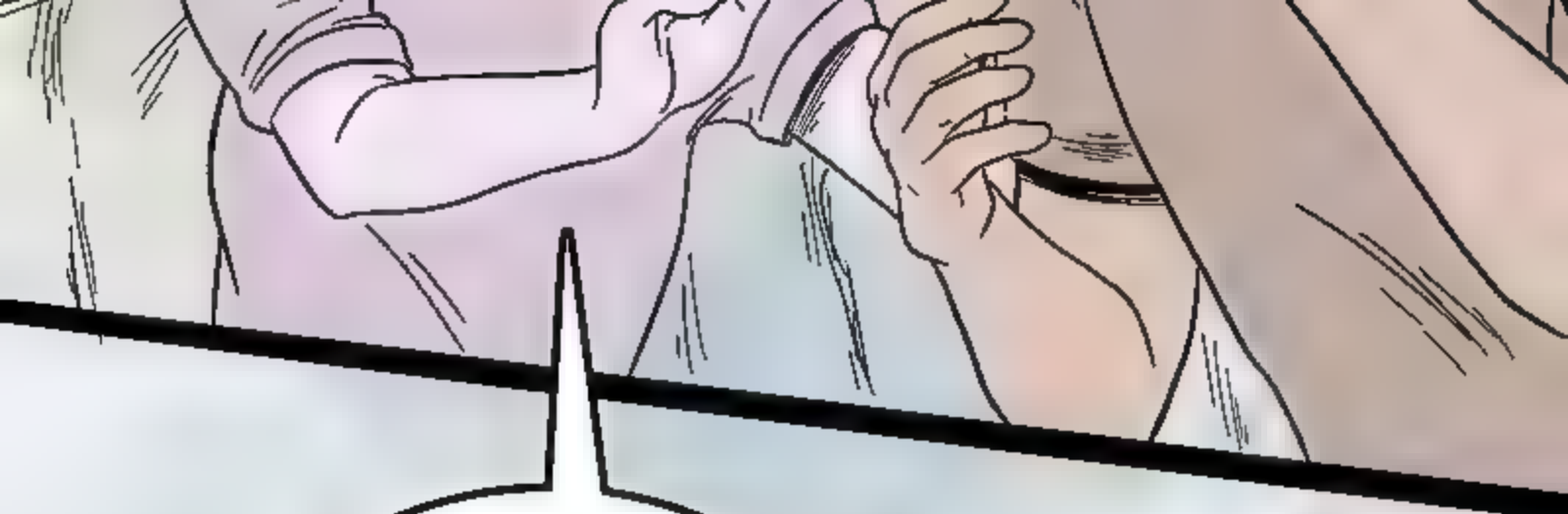
**IT INJECTED
ME WITH
SOMETHING!**



MMFFFF-

A comic panel depicting a scene in the rain. A young man with dark hair is shown from the chest up, his face contorted in distress with his eyes squeezed shut and his hands covering his mouth as if crying or sobbing. To his left, a young woman with dark hair in pigtails looks at him with a shocked expression, her mouth open and eyes wide. The background is a light, hazy sky with rain falling, indicated by vertical lines. Two speech bubbles are positioned above the man: the top one contains the sound 'MMFFFF-' and the bottom one contains the text 'OH GOD, I'M GONNA-'. A large, empty speech bubble is visible at the very top of the frame.

OH GOD,
I'M GONNA-

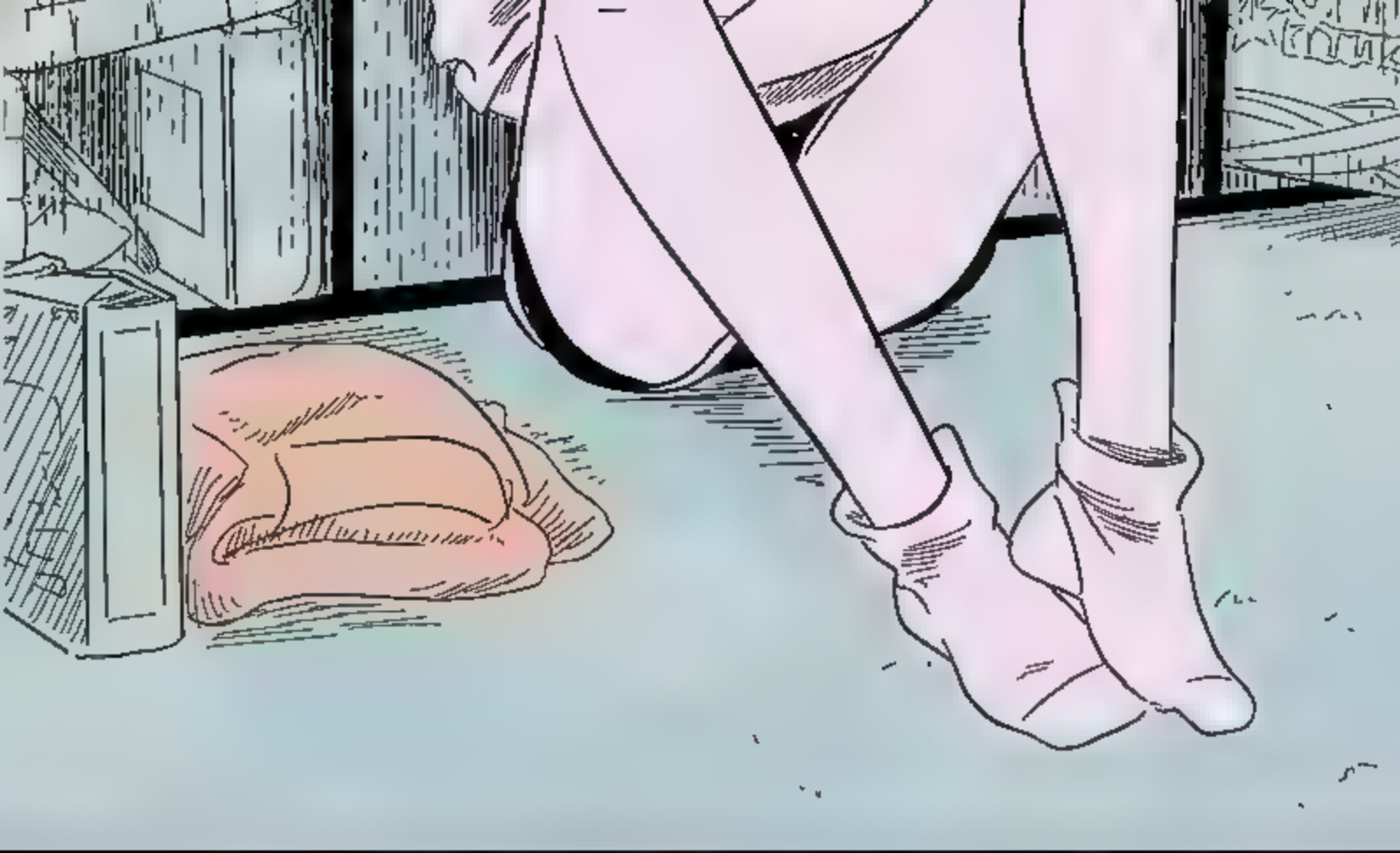
A comic panel showing a close-up of hands. One hand is holding another person's arm, while another hand is visible nearby. The background is a light blue gradient.

FELIX!
JUST STAY
CALM!

WE KNEW IT
PUT SOMETHING
IN YOU, JUST
LIKE IT DID
ME.

IT MADE ME
HALLUCINATE BY
GETTING INTO THE
WATER.

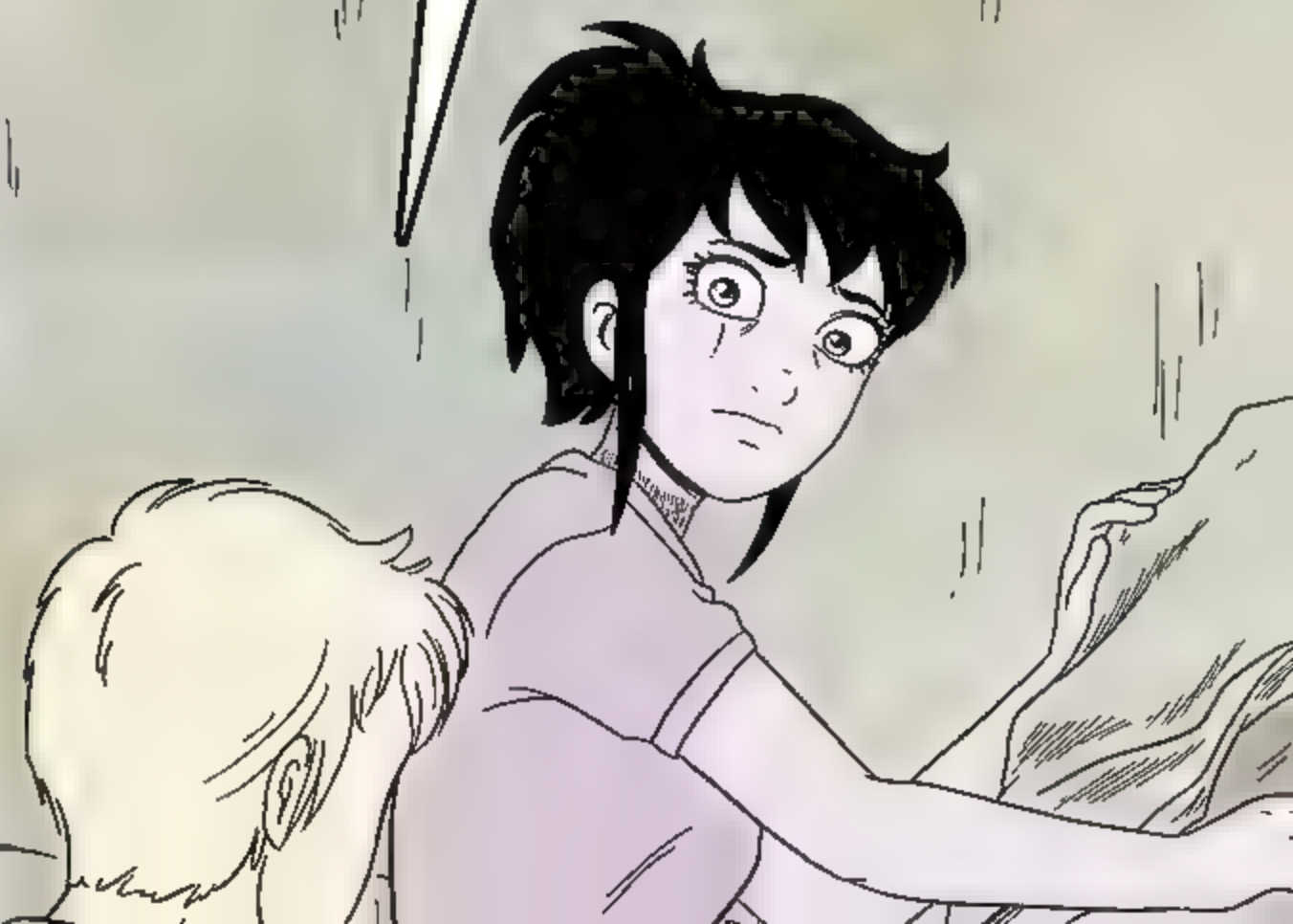


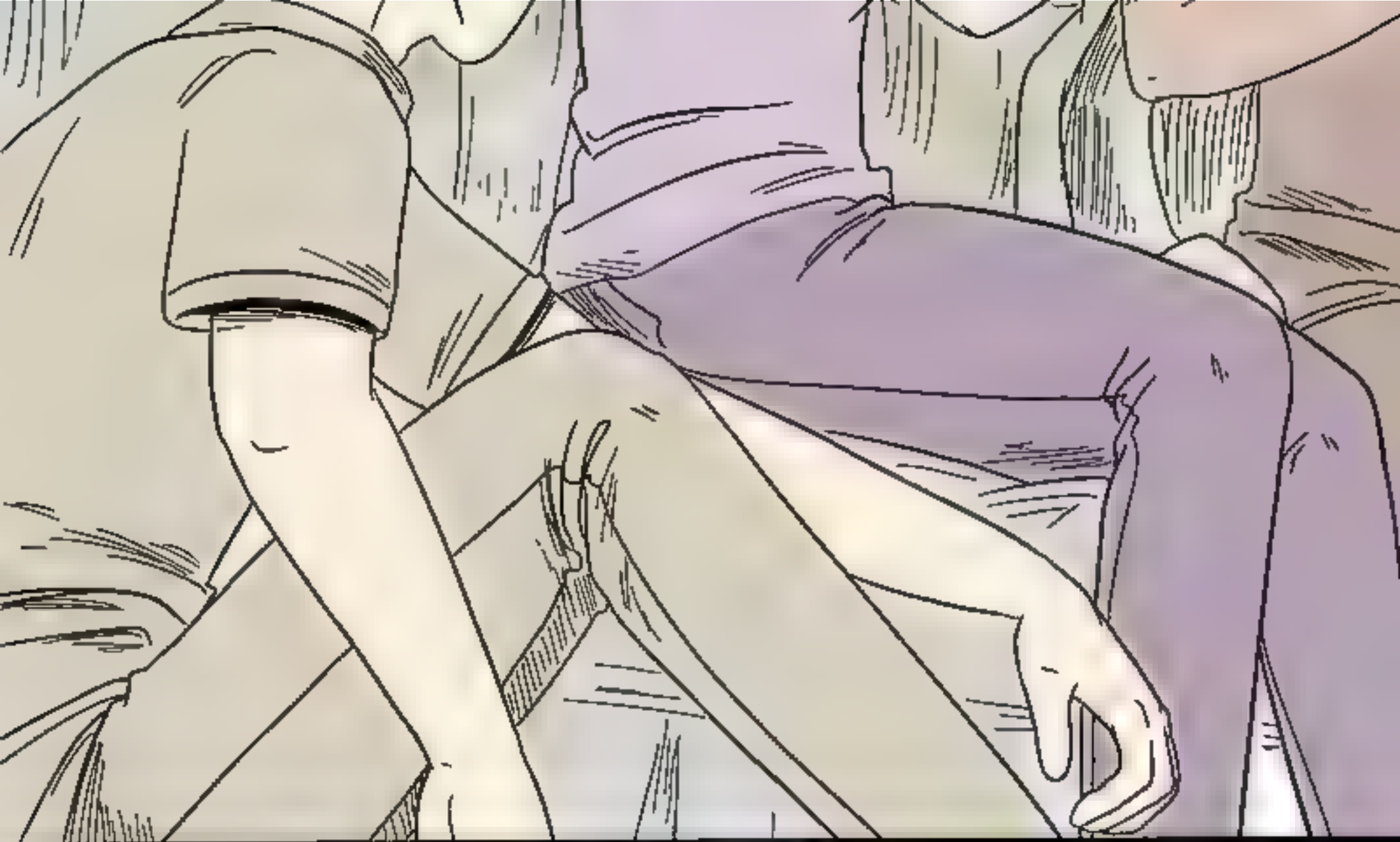


I GUESS WE
JUST ASSUMED
THAT'S HOW IT
GOT YOU TOO.

BUT IT LEFT
YOUR SYSTEM
FAST, FRANKIE. IT
ISN'T STILL IN
YOU.

FELIX'S PROBLEM
NOW SEEMS TO
BE WEAKER. IT FADES
IN AND OUT OF
CONTROL.

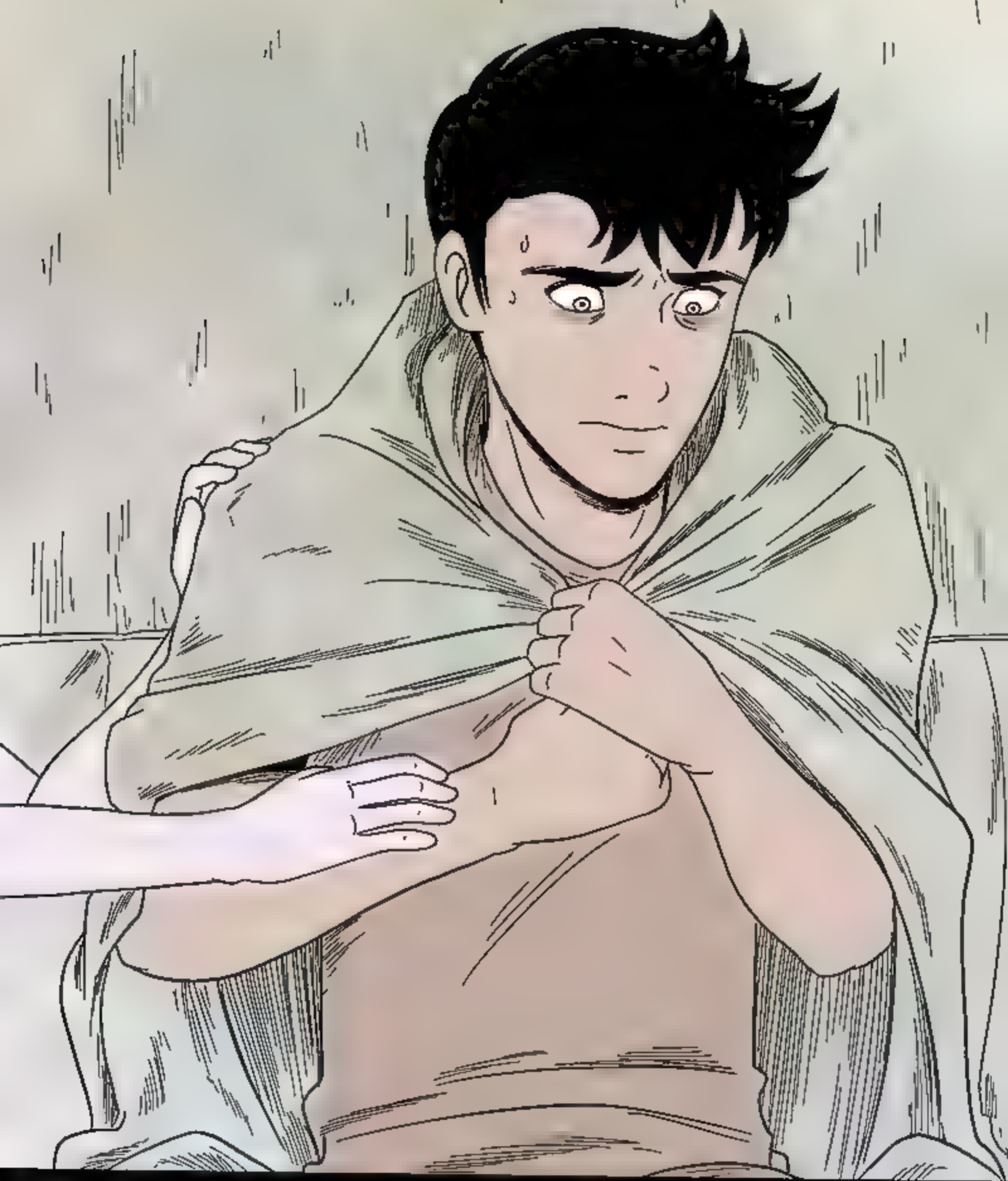




WHAT FELIX SAW IN
THE LIBRARY MAY
NOT HAVE BEEN
REAL, BUT THE
ENTITY *WE* SAW WAS
REAL AND LIKELY
NEARBY TO EXERT
INFLUENCE OVER THE
PART OF IT THAT'S
STILL INSIDE HIM.

AS IF IT'S
TRYING TO
CONTROL HIM
REMOTELY, BUT
IT NEEDS TO BE

IT NEEDS TO BE
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO DO SO.

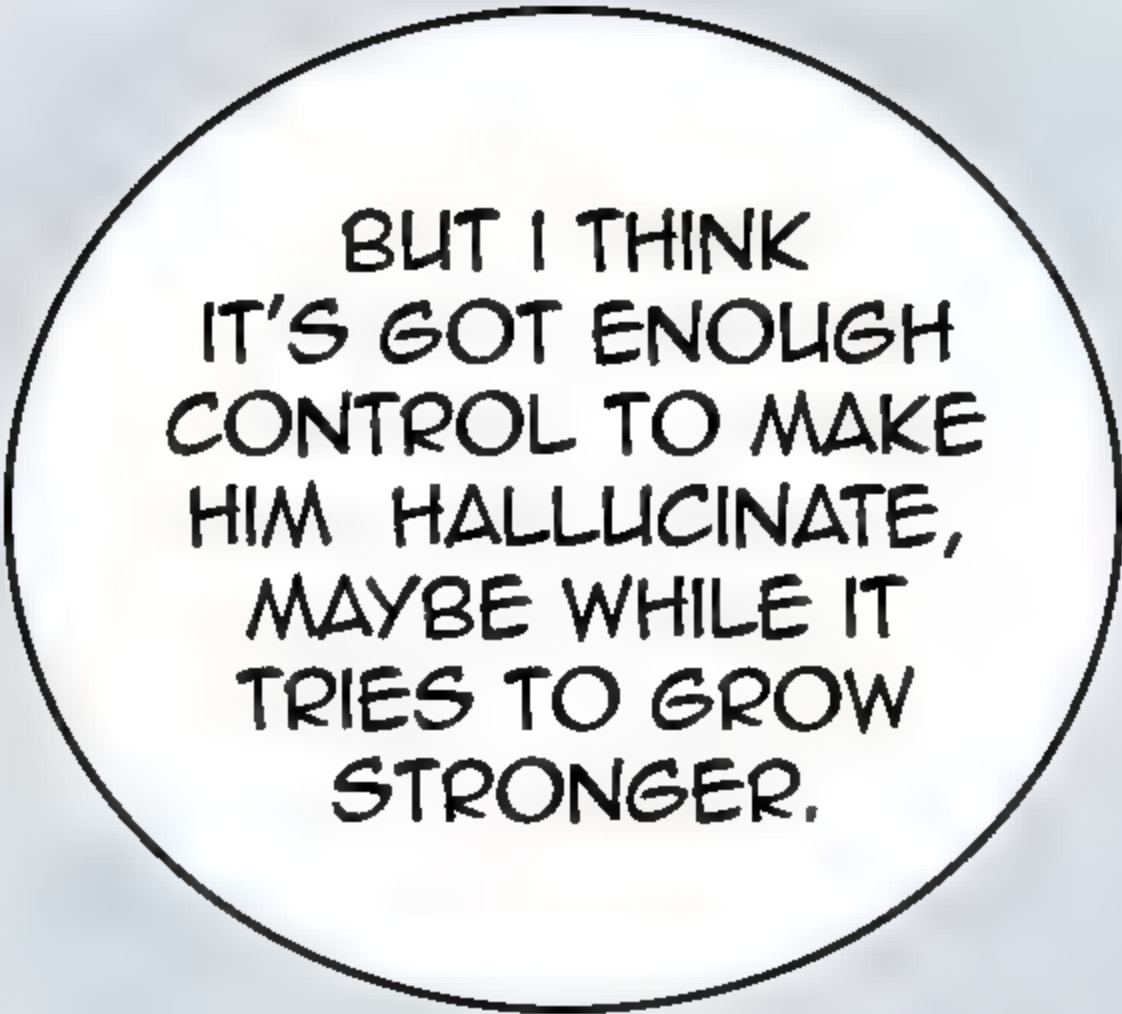


IT'S NOT STRONG
ENOUGH TO TAKE FULL
CONTROL OF HIM ALL
THE TIME...

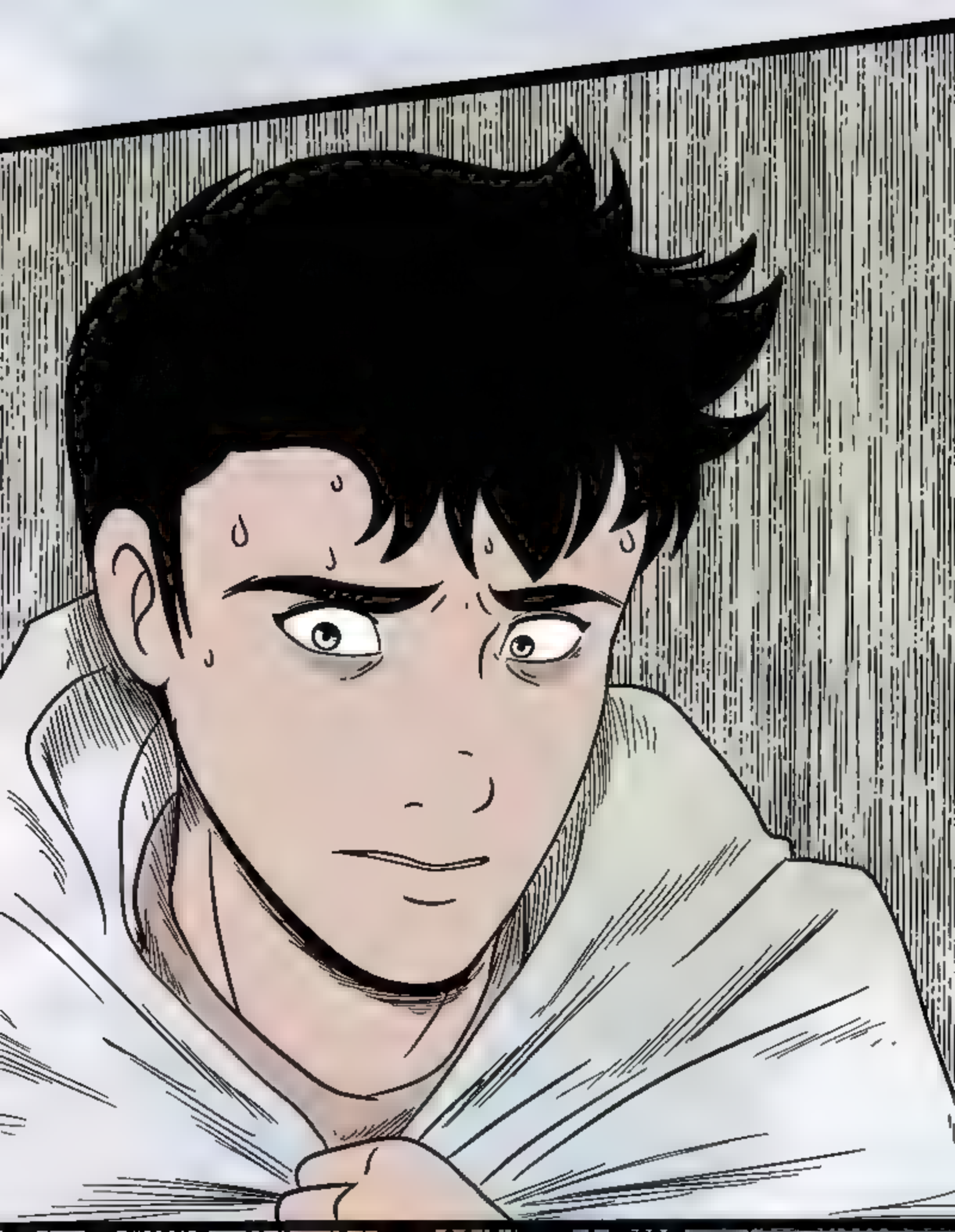




HE CAN STILL
FIGHT IT OFF
IF HE'S
PUSHED.



BUT I THINK
IT'S GOT ENOUGH
CONTROL TO MAKE
HIM HALLUCINATE,
MAYBE WHILE IT
TRIES TO GROW
STRONGER.



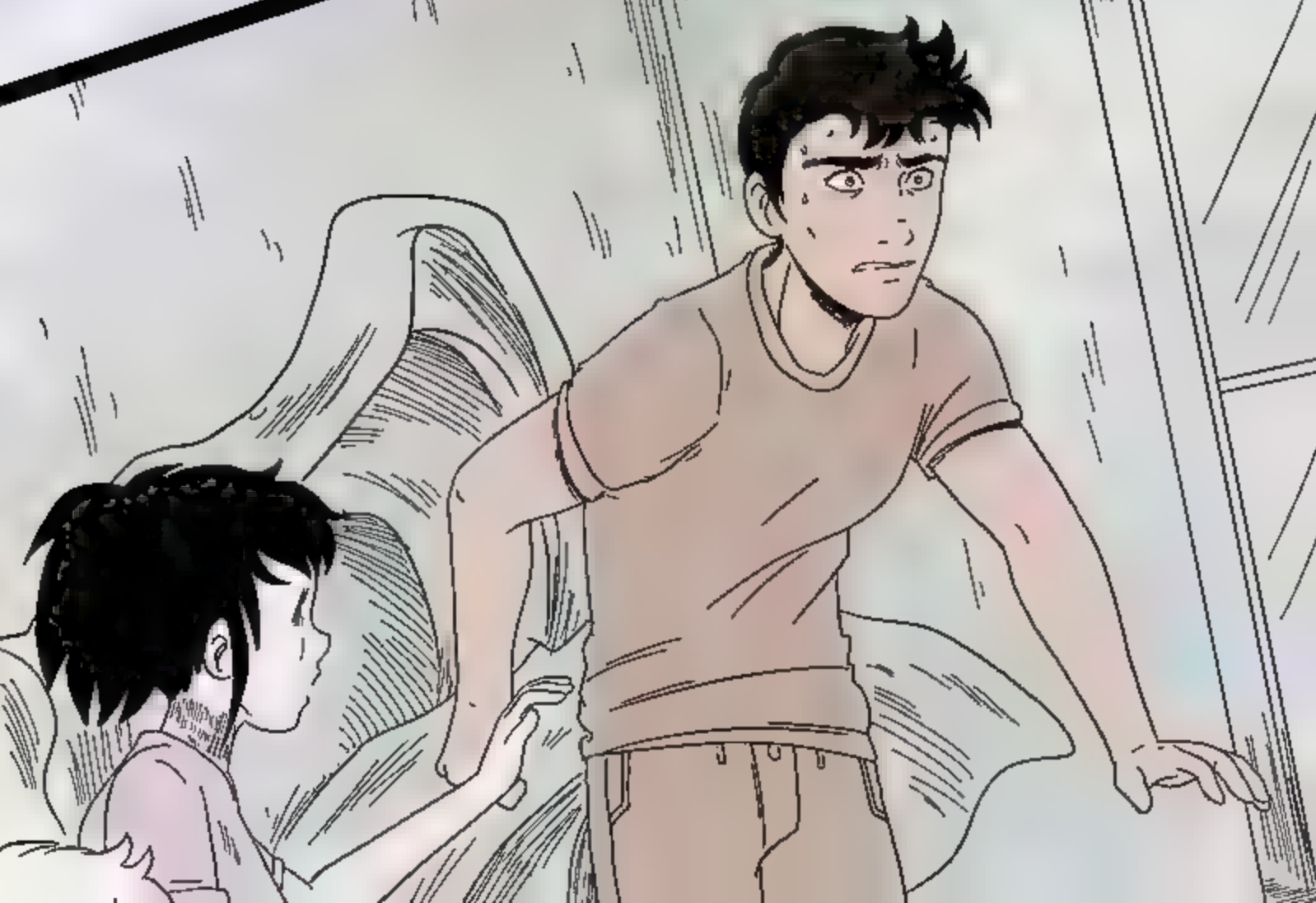
I JUST...

I'M NOT SURE
WHAT WE CAN *DO*
ABOUT IT.

THE ONLY
THING THAT BLACK

STUFF SEEMS
AFRAID OF
IS FIRE.

JUMP

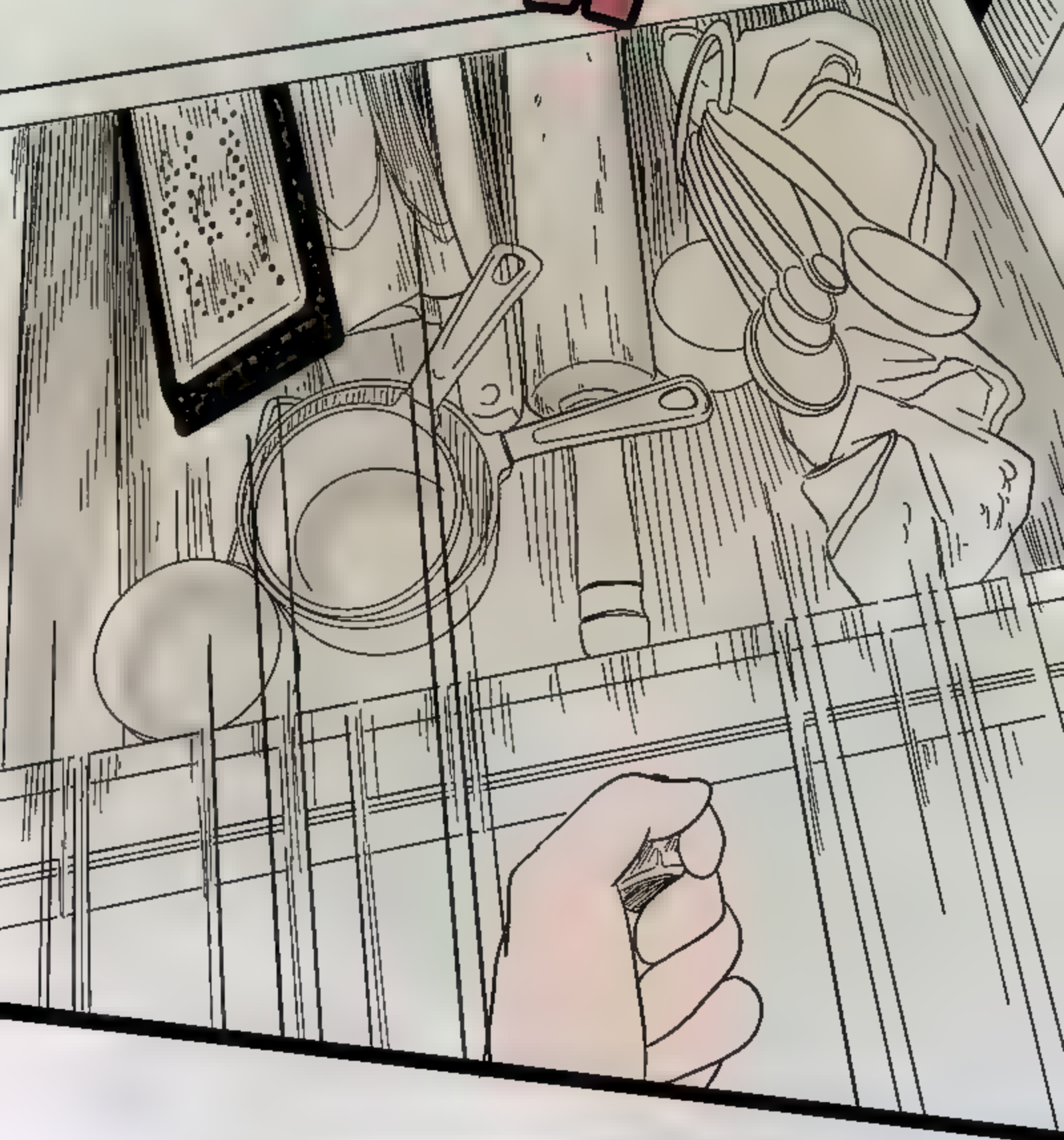




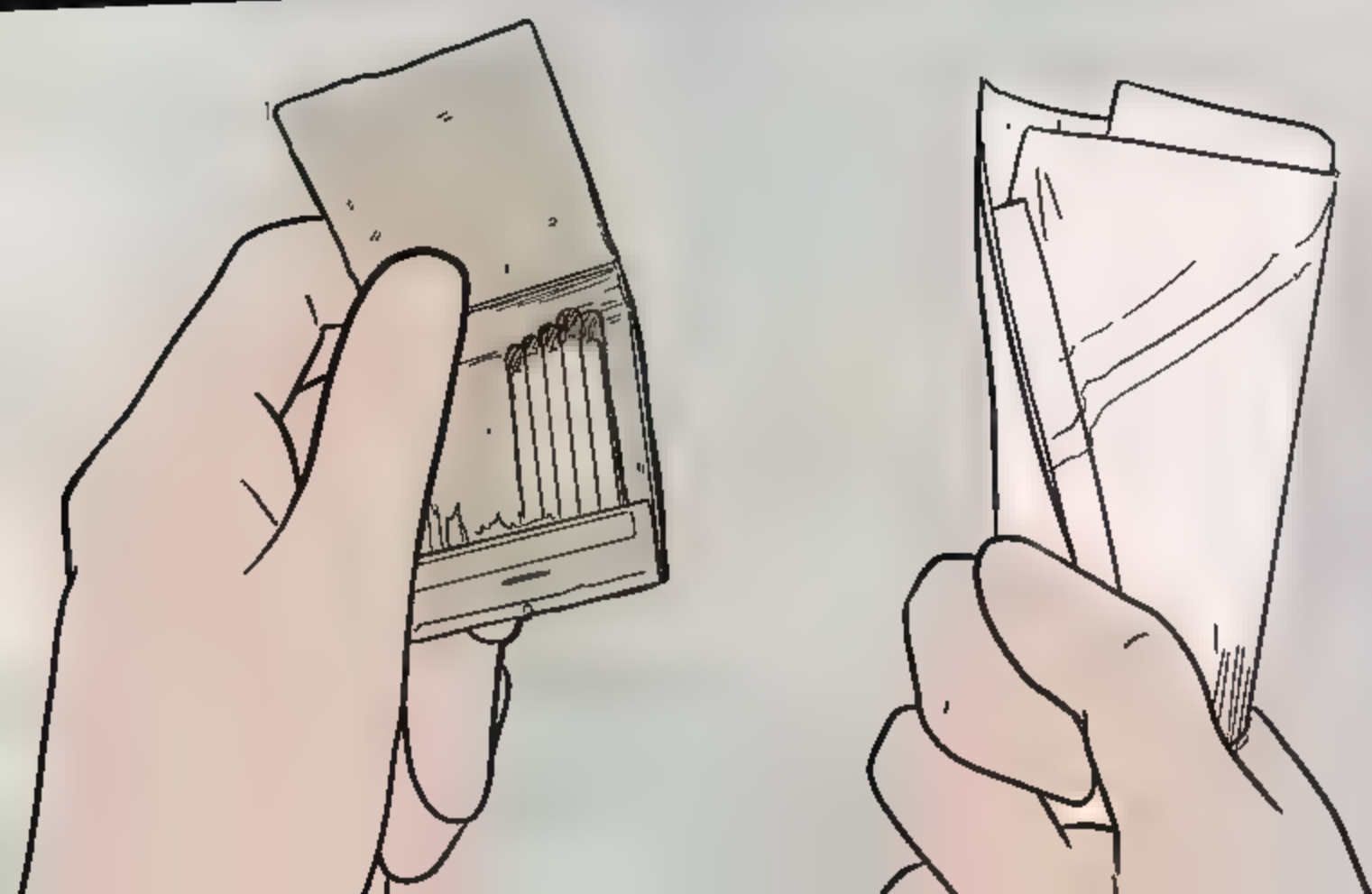
FELIX!

**WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?!**

RATTLE



BRO, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?



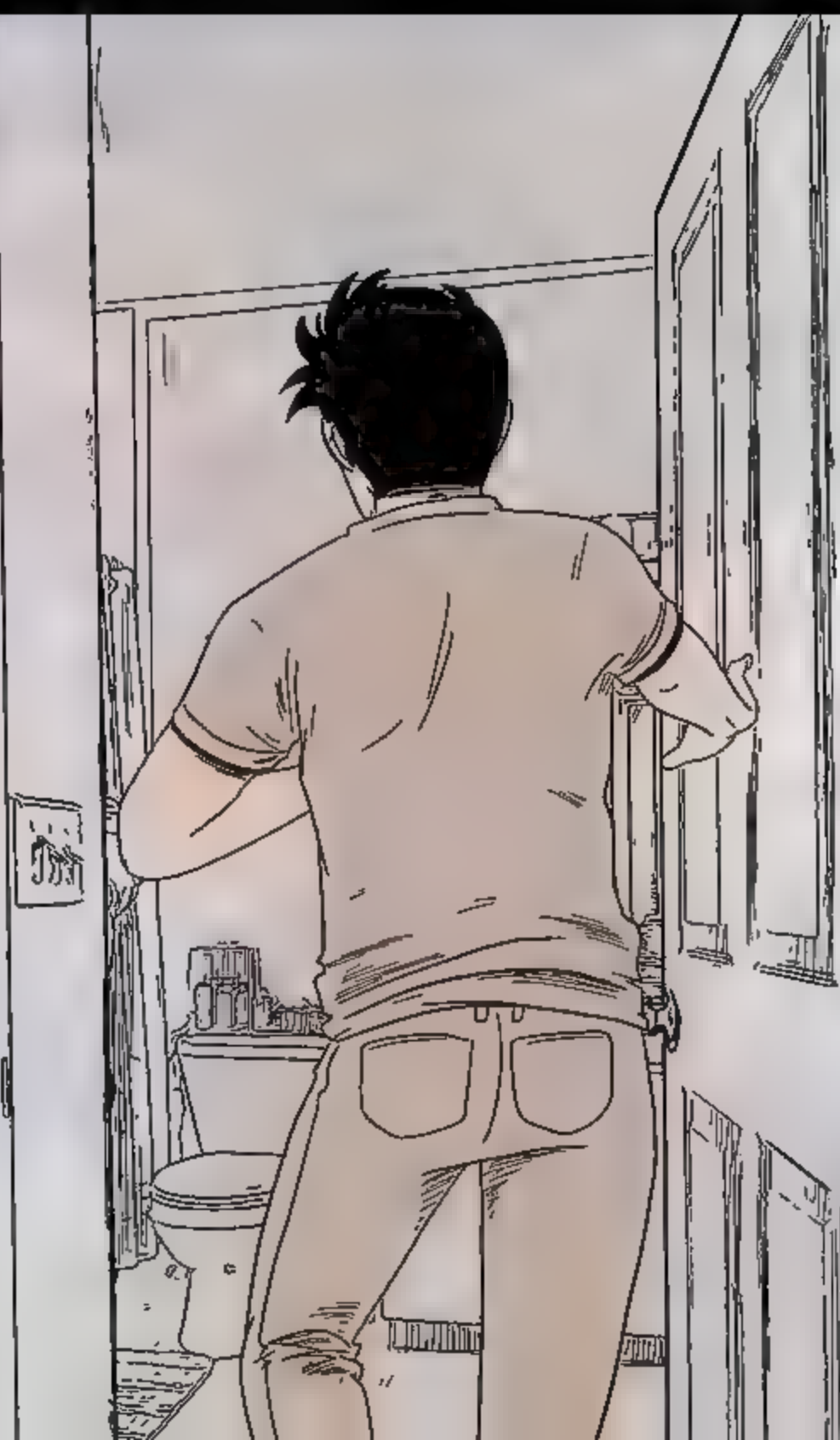
A hand with a pinkish skin tone is shown from the wrist up, reaching down towards a speech bubble. The hand is positioned in the upper right corner of the frame. A thick black line runs diagonally across the upper part of the image, separating the hand from the rest of the scene.

FELIX!
HEY!



FELIX!

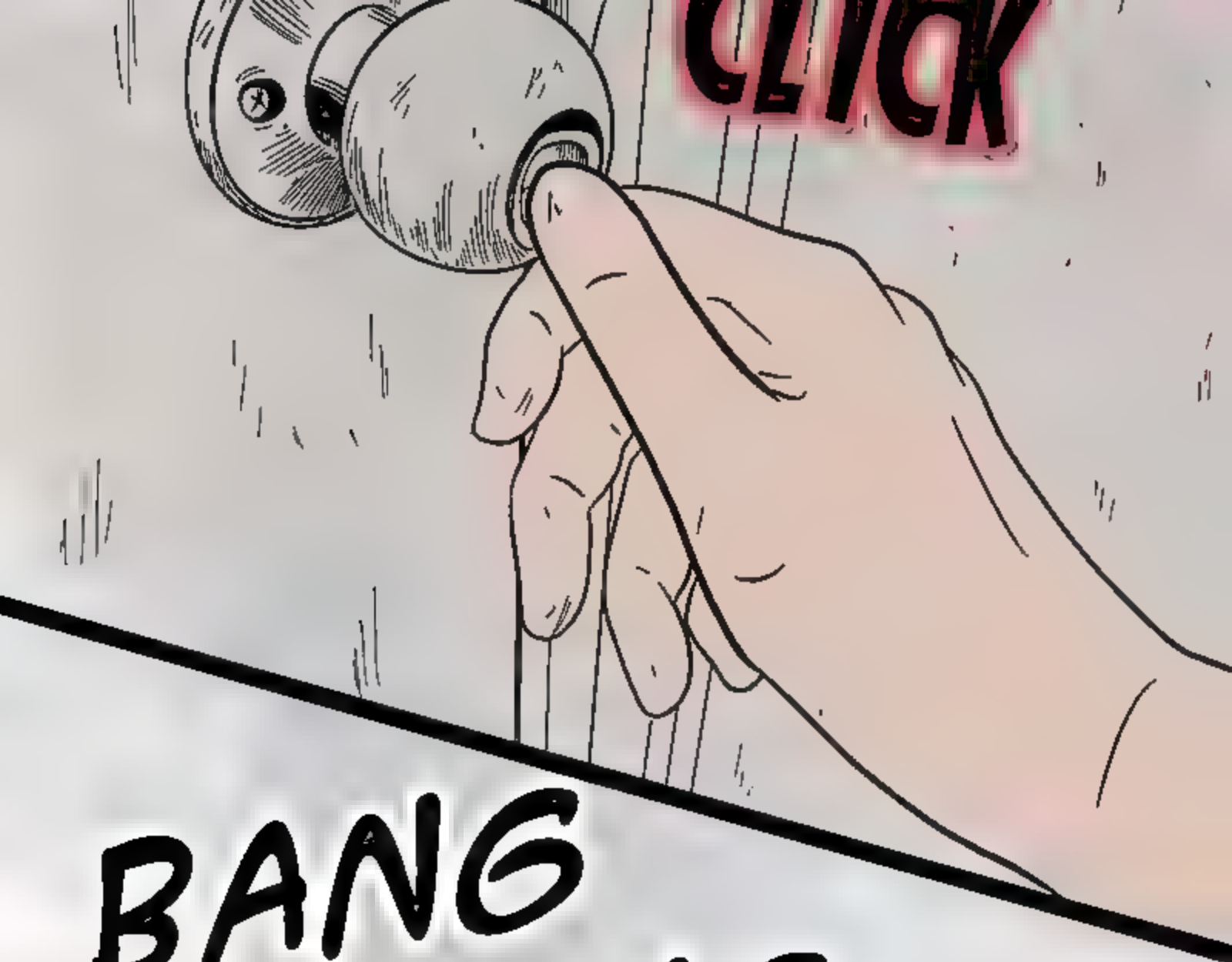
STOP!





SLAM

Click

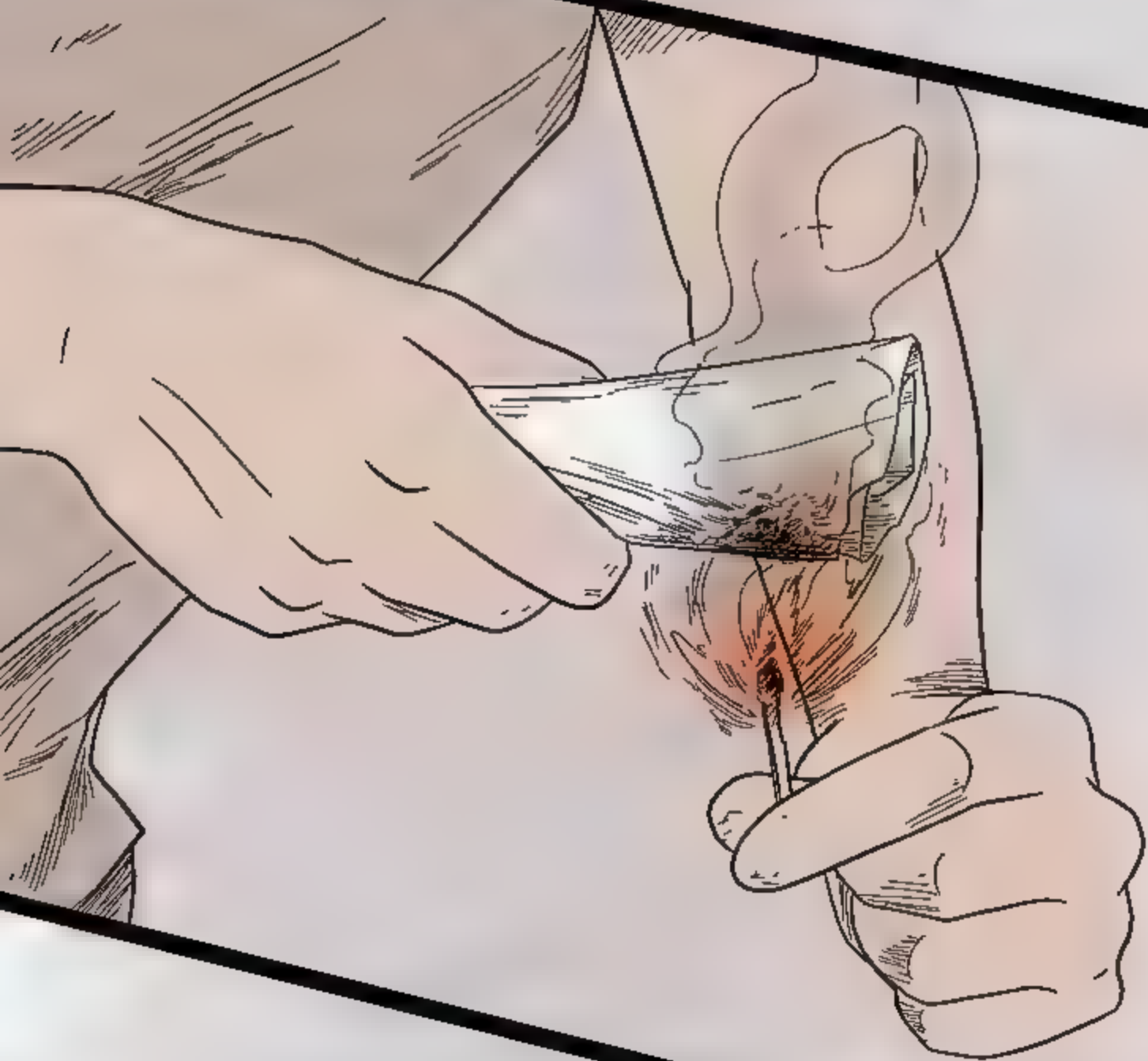
A hand is shown turning a silver door handle. The handle is cylindrical with a circular base. The hand is rendered in a simple, cartoonish style with pinkish skin. The background is light gray with some vertical lines suggesting a door or wall.

CLICK

**BANG
BANG**

**HE LOCKED
IT!**

HISSSH



**FELIX,
UNLOCK THE
DOOR!**



NOW!



SSSS



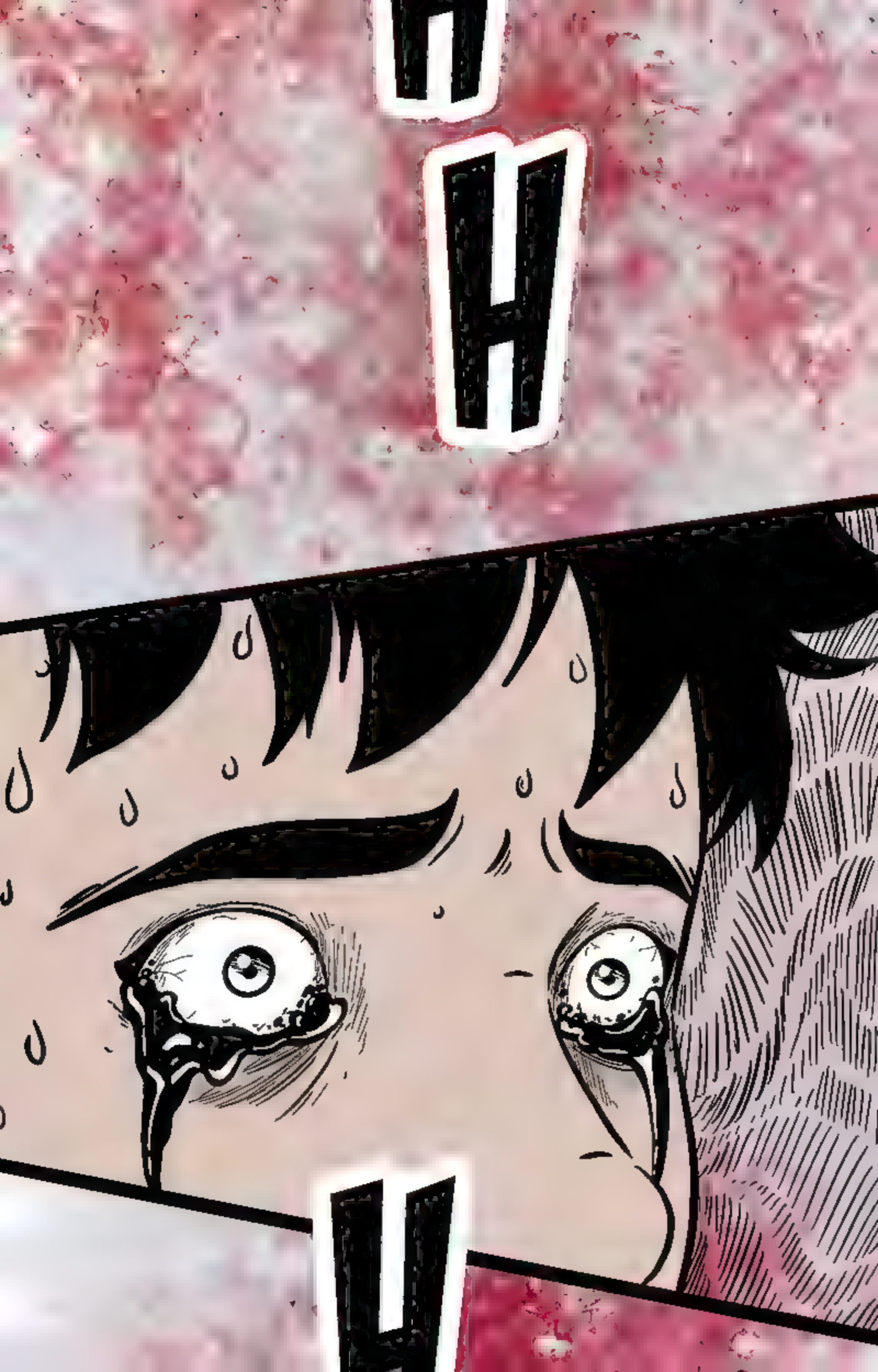
A hand with a black outline is holding a large, stylized letter 'A' that has a white outline and a black fill. The background is a soft-focus image of pink cherry blossoms. The letter 'A' is positioned in the upper left corner of the frame.

A

A

A

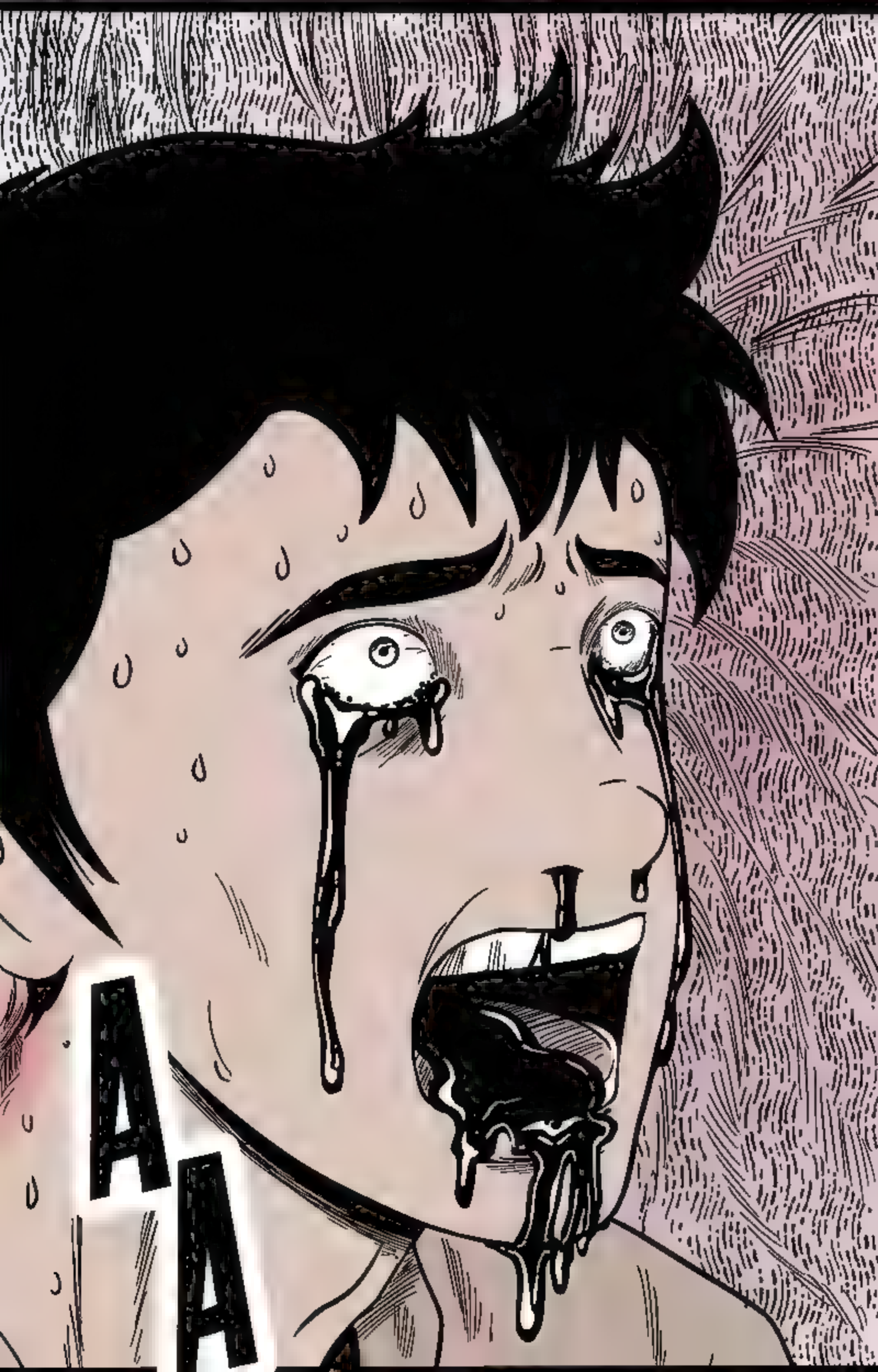
A





**JEREMY,
GET
MY LOCK
PICK!!**

PICK!!



A

A

H

H

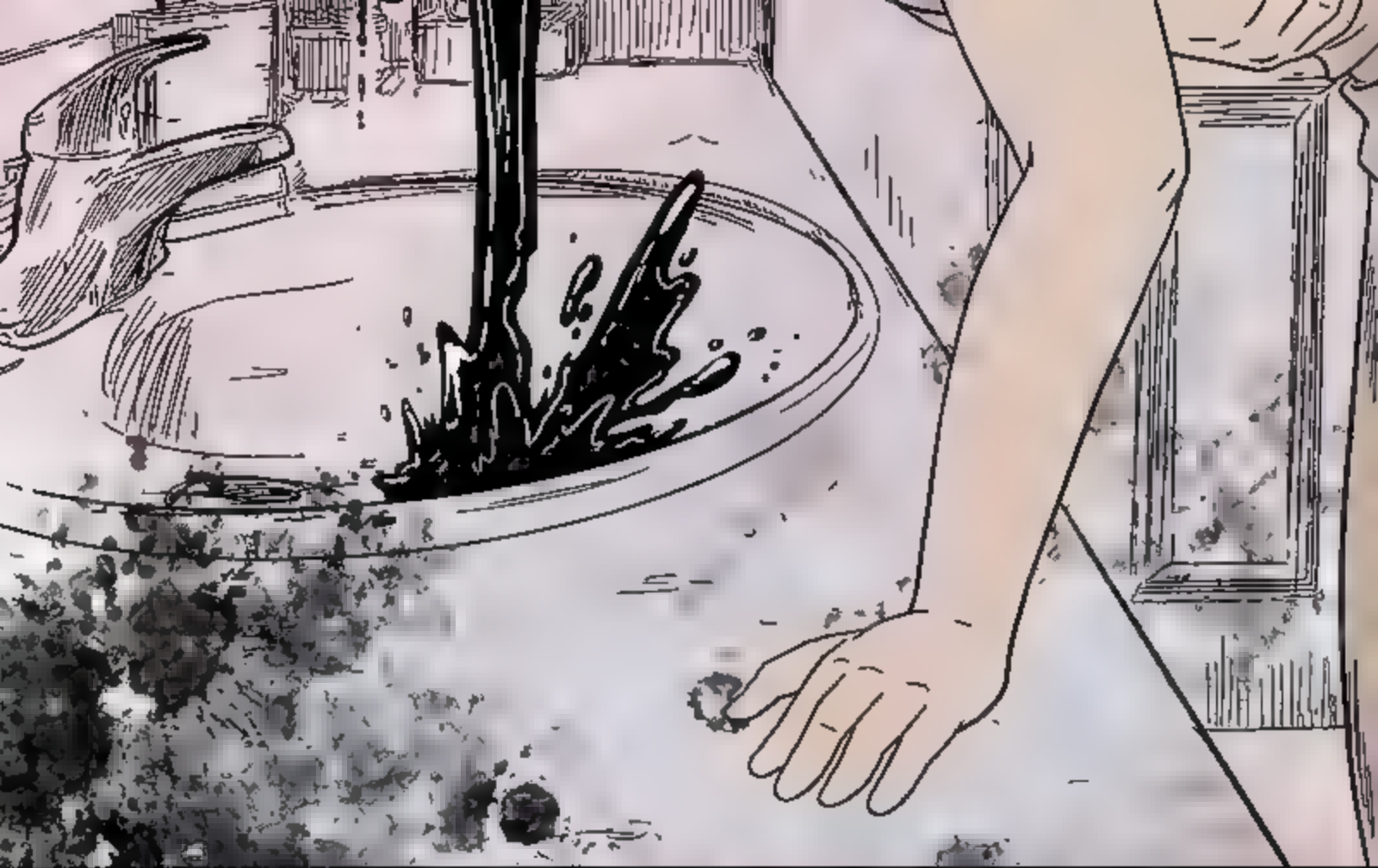




FELIX!
OPEN THE
DOOR!

HURRGHH





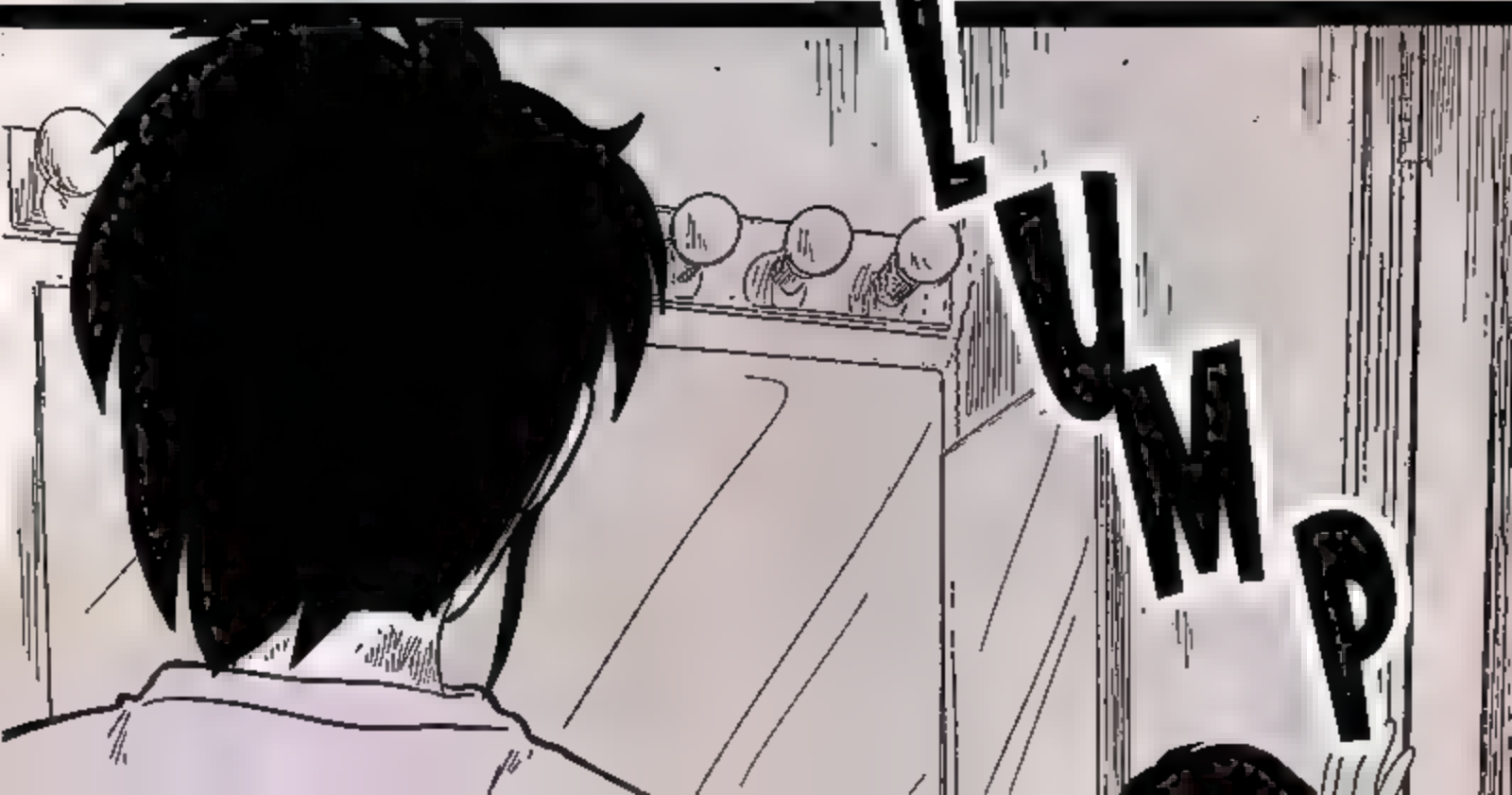
I GOT IT!
I GOT
IT OPEN!





FELIX!

**S
L
U
M
P**



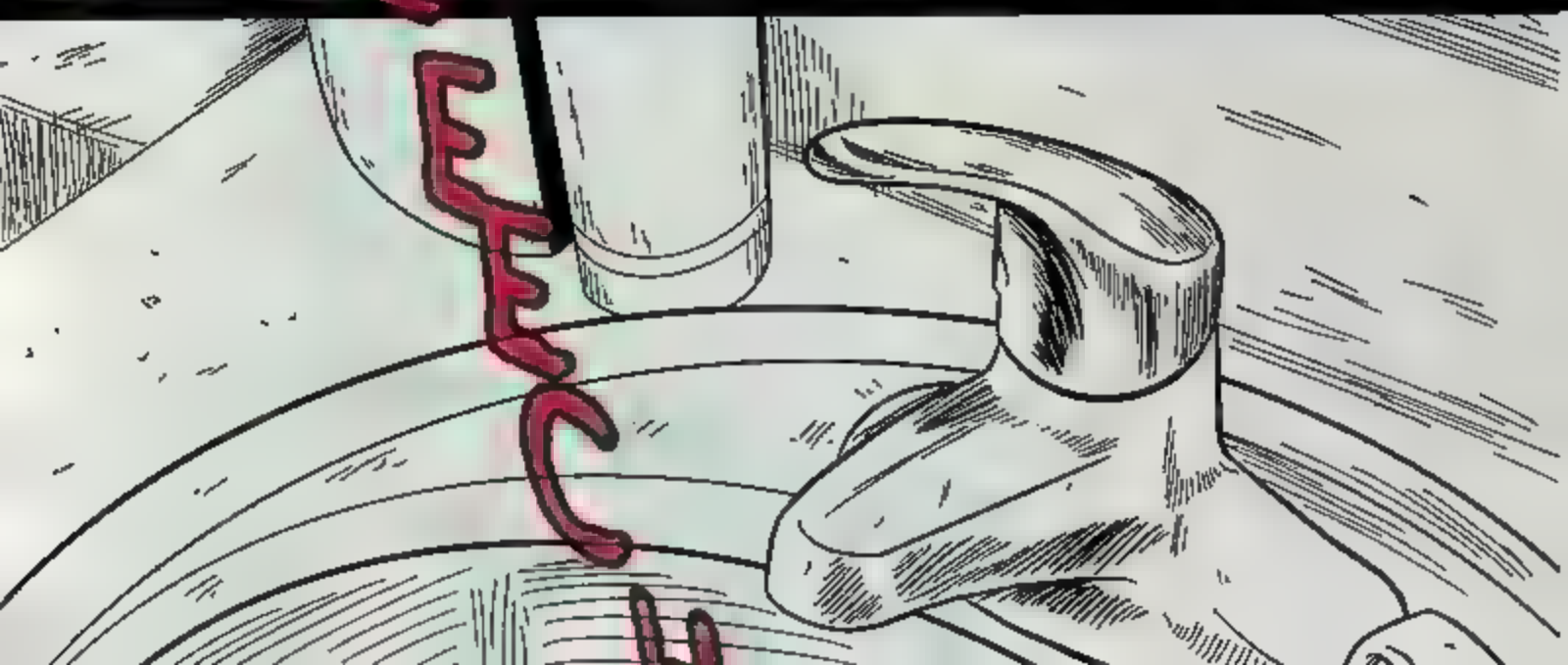


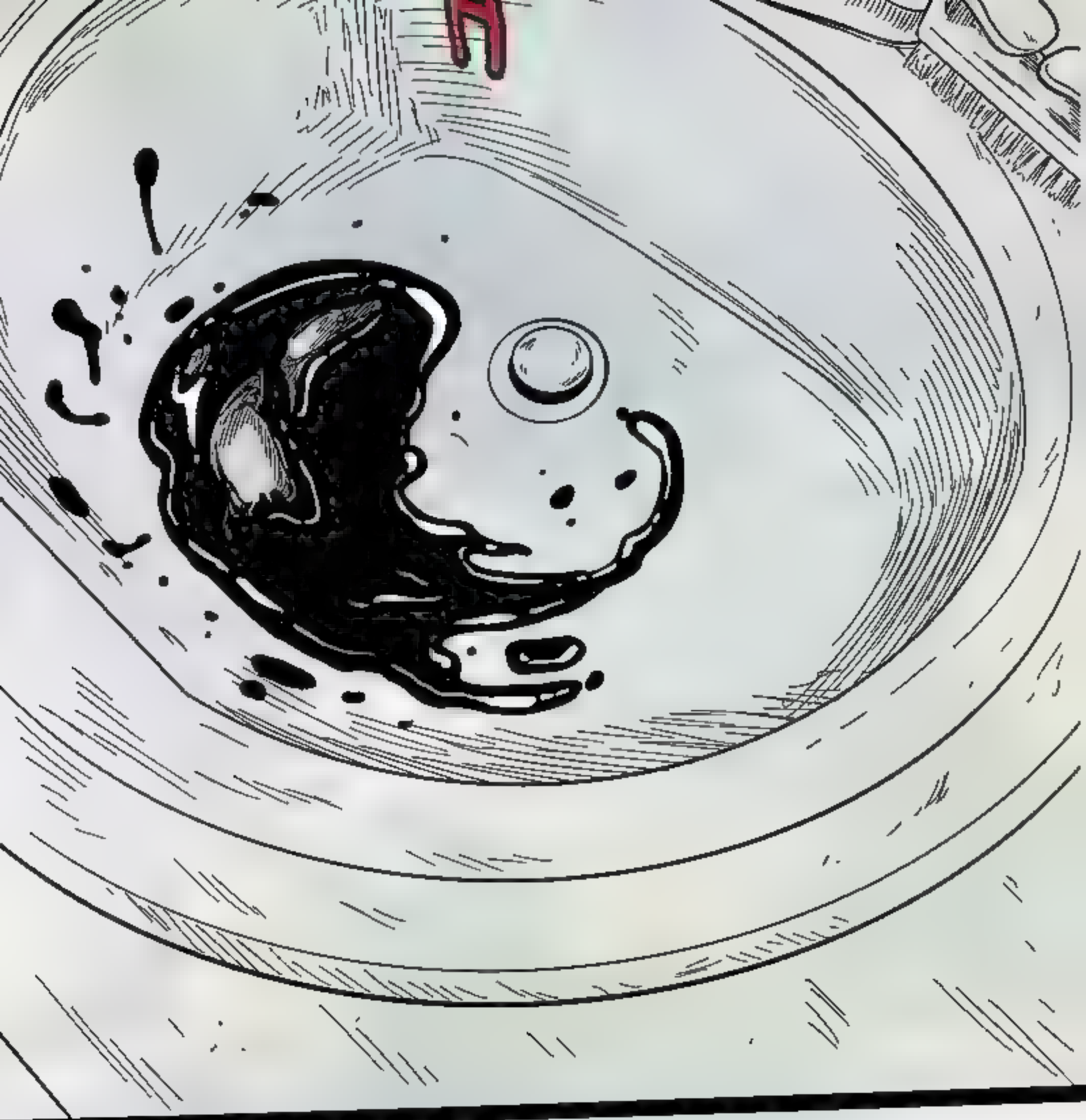
**BRO!
FELIX, YOU
OKAY?**

OH GOD...



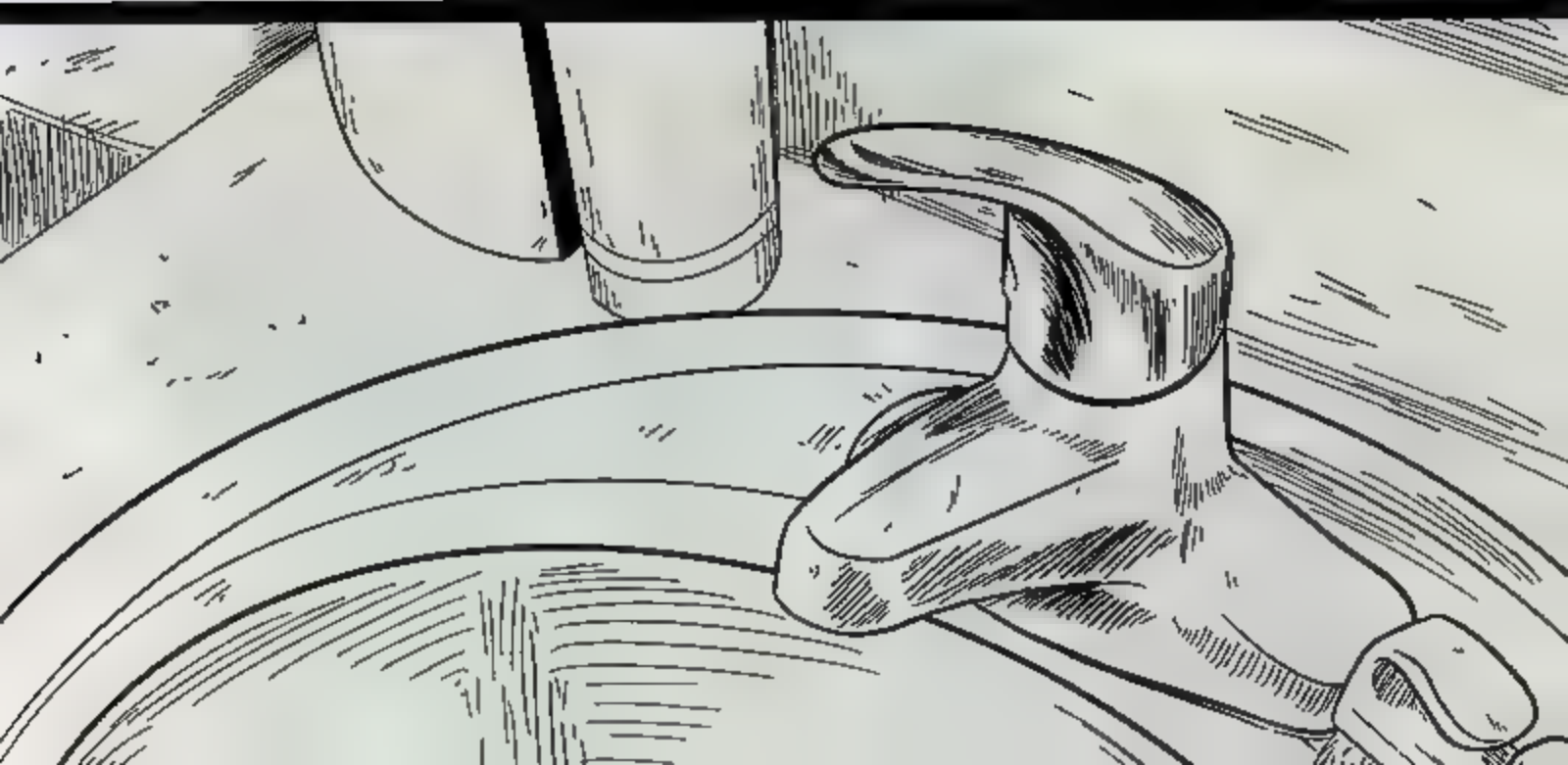
SECRET

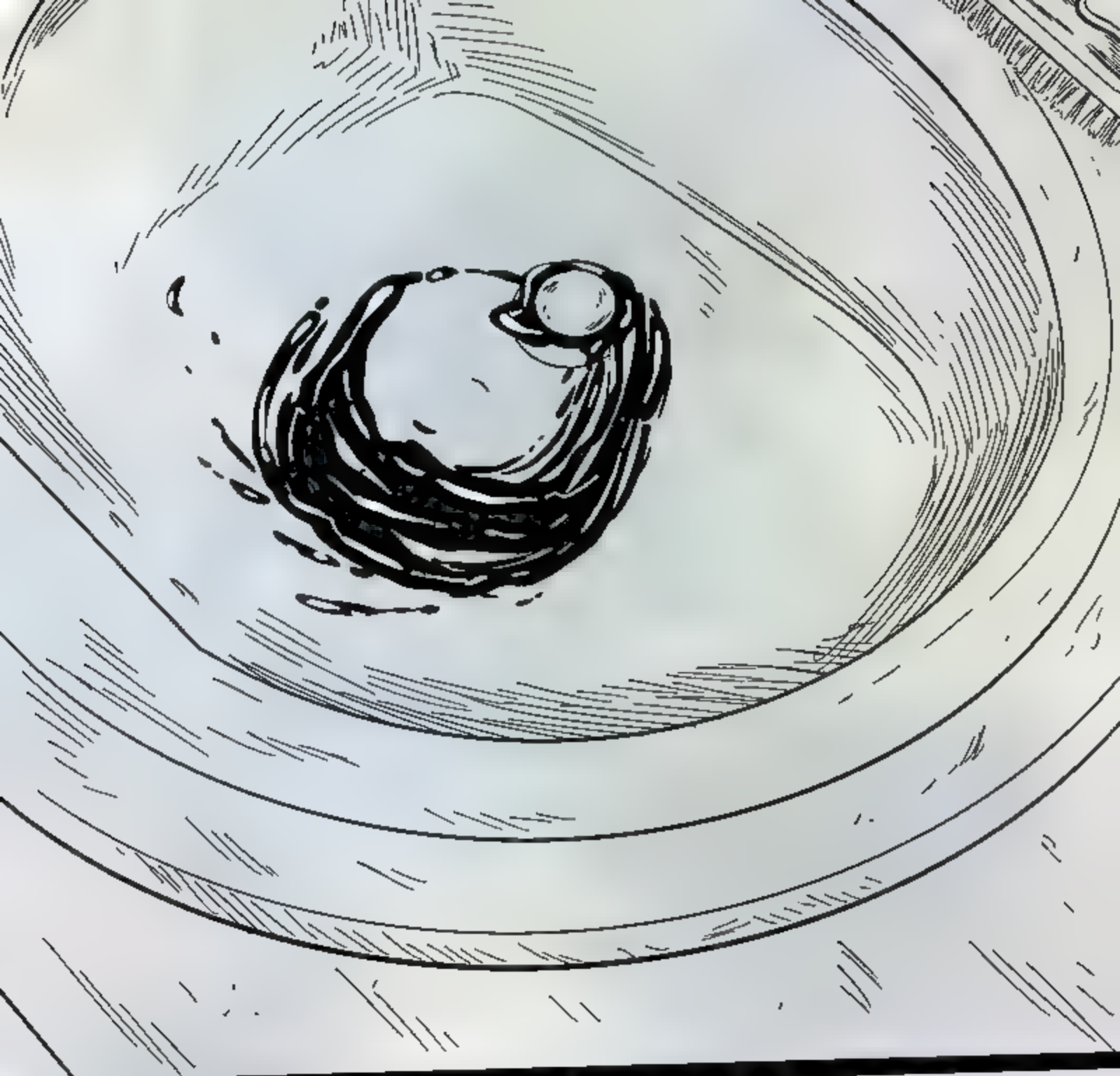


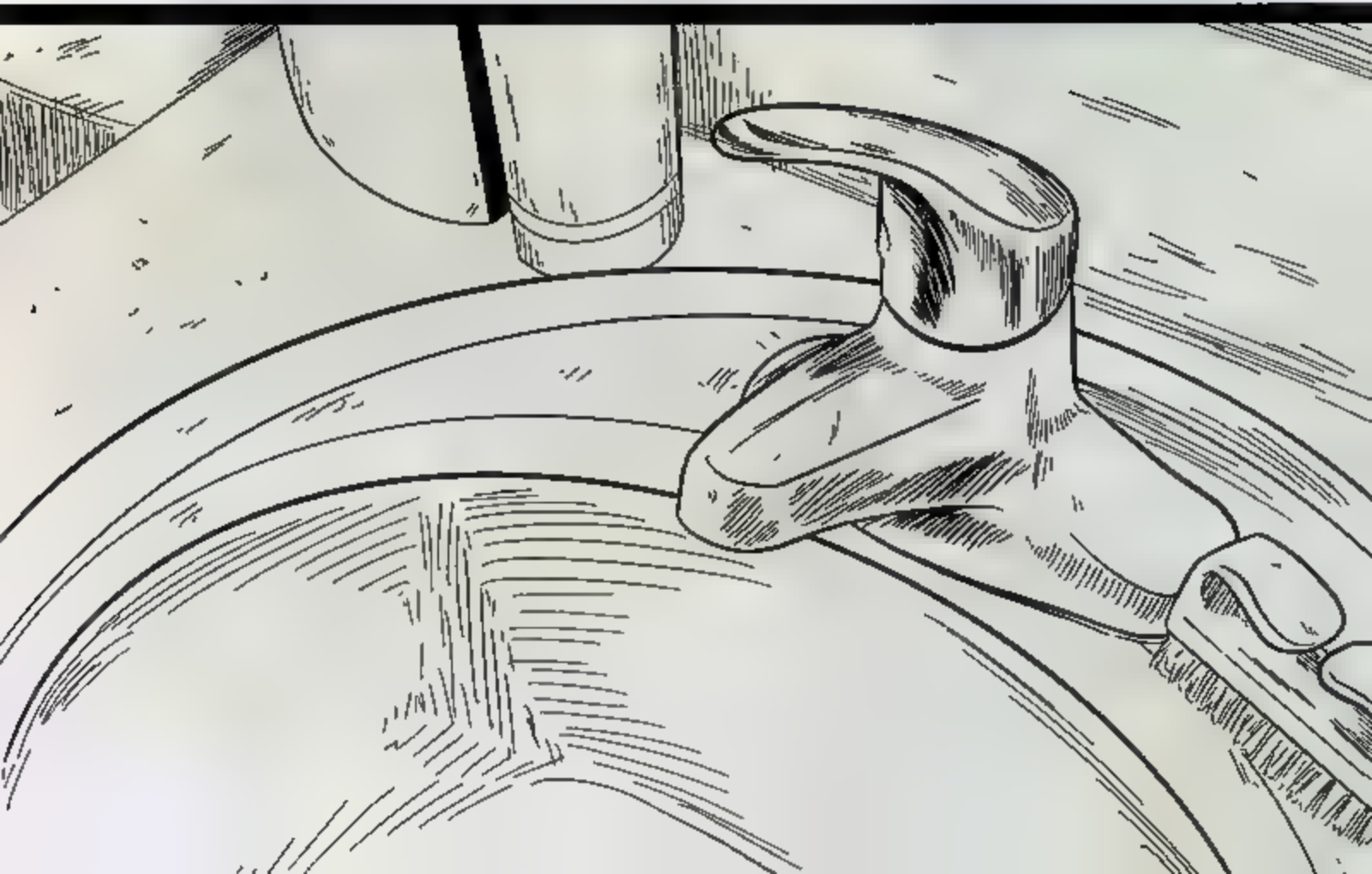


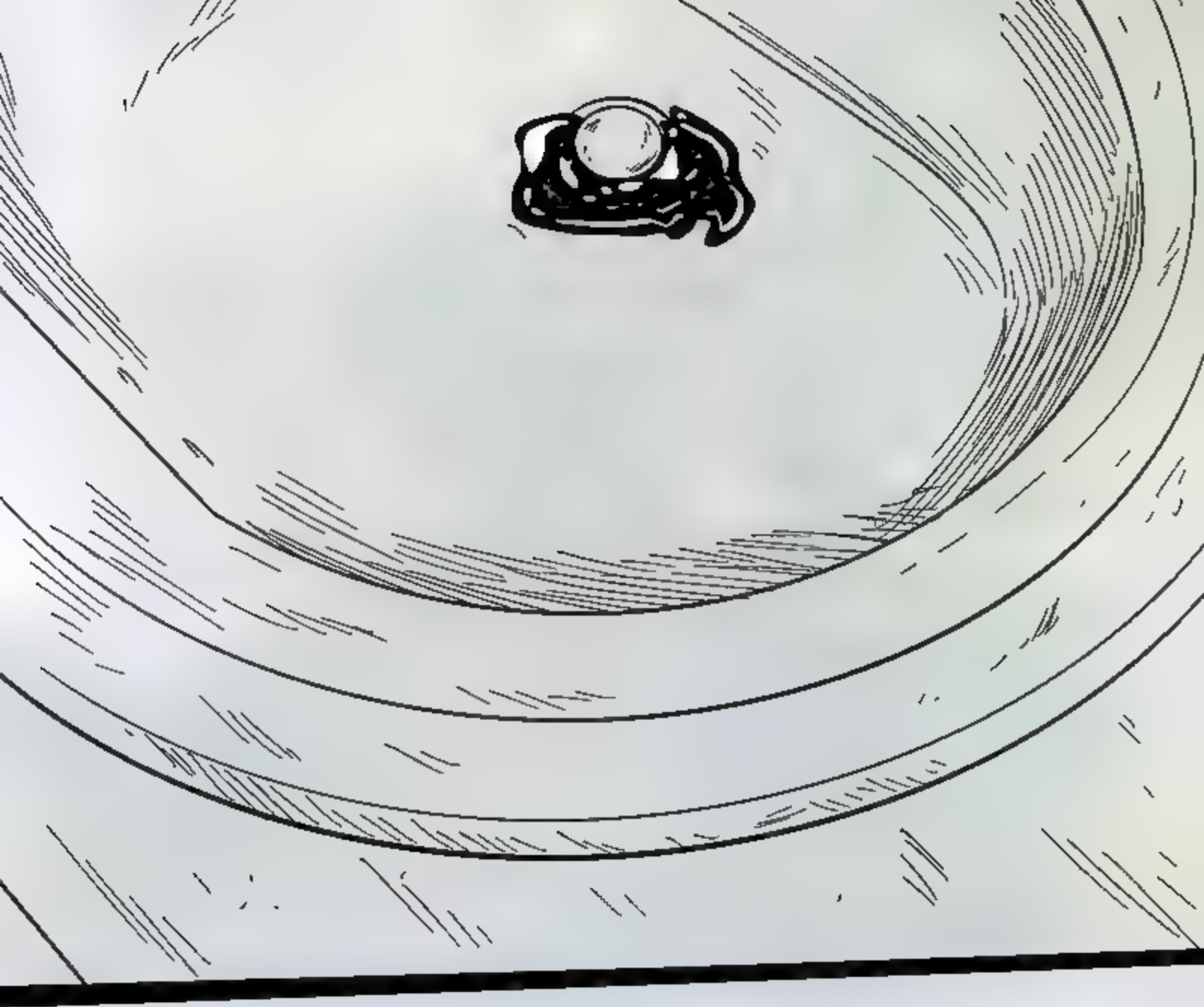


GLUGGG











FELIX...

UGGNH...

IT'S OKAY.

IT'S OKAY
NOW...

IT'S OUT.

YOU DID
GOOD.



